

THE DANES IN BENGAL.

By

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WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

PRABARTAK PUBLISHERS.

61, Bowbazar Street,

Calcutta-12

First Edition : September, 1952

**Published by Radhā Rāmān Choudhury, Prabartak Publishers
61, Bowbazar Street, Calcutta and Printed by Kanai Lal Dey
at B. G. Printers & Publishers Ltd., 80-6, Grey Street, Calcutta.**

JAIPUR

TO
MY LATE FATHER
APURBA NARAYAN MITRA,
WHO INSPIRED THESE WRITINGS.

FOREWORD

A series of articles under the title of "The Danes in Bengal" were contributed by me to "The Simla Times," a weekly journal which, at the time, was under the able editorship of the Arch bishop of Simla. The first article of the series appeared in the paper on July 29, 1920, and immediately arrested the attention of the Simla public, of its European section in particular. The editor and the manager of the paper wrote encouragingly to me, from time to time, stating that the articles raised considerable interest among its readers. Long after their appearance in "The Simla Times" DR H. W. Moreno Ph. D of Calcutta, wrote to me for copies of certain missing numbers to enable him to complete his file. The articles which cover only the Chapter on "General History" are now offered in a book form to my countrymen almost in the same form in which they first appeared, but much new matter has been added, dealing with Danish Administration, Revenue; Law and Justice, together with a short account of the Serampore Mission. It is hoped that the book will supply some missing links in the history of Bengal during the period of its transition from the Moghul to the British rule.

I beg to express my deep obligation to Messrs J. Christensen and H. Anderson, sometime Manager, the Phanchpara Sylhet Lime Works and President, the Scandinavian Seamen's Mission, Calcutta, respectively, for their active help in rendering into English some original Danish writings.

Serampore.

Dated, the 1st of May, 1960 }

L. M. M.

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**A Bird's-Eye View of the
Trade of Ancient India With
the West**

vessels plying in Indian seas and Alexandria excelled Tyre in the magnitude of her merchantile operations. Egypt, after her conquest by Augustus, received a fresh impetus to her trade with India. About the middle of the first century A. D., Hippalus discovered a new trade route between Arabia and India by availing himself of the periodical wind that blew over the Indian Ocean alternately from east and west. It established an extensive acquaintance with the sea coast of India and all that was costly and rare was collected to pamper to the luxuries of Rome. It became a subject of apprehension at Rome lest the empire should be drained of its specie to maintain the commerce with India. Silver to the value of nearly a million and a half sterling was paid annually for the spices, gems, pearls and silks imported from India through Egypt, Pliny, who completed his great work within fifty years of the discovery of Hippalus, bears ample testimony to India's sea-borne trade.

General History

Many years before the Portuguese established their first settlement in Bengal, the country had been visited first, by Nicolo Conti, and, next to him, by Ludovico Di Varthema, both of whom were Italians. Both were struck with the wealth and products of the country, which appeared to them as the best in the world for living in. In the accounts left by these travellers we read how the country abounded in grain, flesh of every kind, sugar, also in ginger and in cotton more than any other country in the world; and how there was also abundance of aloe wood, gold, silver, precious stones and pearls. It was such descriptions of European travellers as well as the commerce of the country, which sent, year after year, shiploads of cotton and silk stuffs "through all Turkey, through Syria, through Arabia Felix, through Ethiopia and through all India" that drew the attention of the European nations to the magnificent possibilities of Eastern commerce. Hence it was that the Portuguese, the Dutch, the English, the Danes, and after the Danes the French, the Prussians, and the Flemish came to plant their settlements in Bengal.

Of all parts of Bengal, indeed all parts of the world, the country lying between Hooghly and Howrah is the most densely populated. It also affords excellent facilities to trade and commerce on a river, which is broad and navigable. T

Smith : "From Howrah, the Surrey side of Calcutta up to Hooghly, the country town, the high ridge of mud between the river and the old channel of the Ganges to the west, has attracted the wealthiest and most intellectually active of all the Bengalees. Here it was that Portuguese and Dutch, French and English, and Danish planted their early factories." The first settlement of the Danes was eventually Tranquebar on the Coromandel Coast, but they soon directed their attention to obtain a site in the aforesaid important district. As we propose to give an account of the Danish settlements in Bengal, we shall hurriedly pass over their settlements in Tranquebar or elsewhere and confine ourselves for the present to those in Bengal.

The Danish East India Company was formed in 1612, when King Christian IV was on the throne of Denmark. The object of the Company was to trade with India and the East Indies. Other nations of Europe had already been in enjoyment of the benefits of that rich trade. If, beyond commercial enterprise, the Danes had any designs of founding colonies or a colonial empire in the East, the times seemed favourable to the fostering of such designs. The Portuguese power was tottering everywhere—in India; in Ceylon and in the East Indies. The Dutch were not friendly to the Portuguese, and inflicting blows on them, here and there, as opportunities arose.¹ It is noticeable that amongst

1 Previous to 1594, Dutch vessels regularly visited Lisbon for the rich productions of India, which they transported to all the countries of the North. In 1594, Phillip II, King of Spain, who had newly acquired Portugal, prohibited the Portuguese from having a ny-

to build a fort at Conter in return for the promise of military aid against the Portuguese. On two occasions the Portuguese troops marched to within a few miles of Candy, and in 1615 Senerat sent Pe-huwera to Holland collecting re-inforcements. The States-General, dissatisfied with the conduct of Bushuwera, who approached them not as a subject of Holland, but as a prince and ambassador of the Emperor of Ceylon, declined to send the required help. Finding no other course open, Bushuwera addressed himself to the Danes, who were eager to obtain a footing in I.

against the Portuguese, and in virtue of such services, been created Prince of Migomme and made an admiral. The object of his present visit was to procure suitable aid for the Emperor against the Portuguese. Bushuwers, who was not furnished with proper credentials, hastily prepared them for himself, and interviewed Christian IV at Frederiksborg. A Treaty, which was to last for seven years, for Aid and Commerce was concluded between Christian IV and the Emperor of Ceylon, Bushuwers representing the latter. A Danish fleet was organized, consisting of two men-of-war, the Elephant and the David, and three merchant ships, contributed by the Company. It was placed under the command of Admiral Ove Gedde, who was a Danish noble—the crew however, consisting of a number of Dutchmen, who were either experienced sailors or traders. Roland Crape on board the Oeresund started in August 1618; while the Prince of Migomme on board the David and the Admiral on board the Elephant with rest of the fleet sailed a little later. The Admiral arrived in Ceylon in May 1620 but received news of a number of ill turns in the fortunes of the Company. The Prince of Migomme had died on the voyage. Roland Crape had been routed by the Portuguese near the coast of Coromandel, and had fled, with a few survivors to the Court of Tanjore for protection. This was not all. The Emperor of Ceylon refused to abide by the terms of Bushuwer's treaty which he declared justly to be invalid. Gedde, however, displayed remarkable diplomacy and drew up a fresh treaty quite as advantageous as that of Bushuwers, and by which Tincomalee was ceded to the Danes. Gedde then sailed

away to Coromandel Coast and met R. Crape at the court of the Raja of Tanjore. Crape had already done something to set the Danish trade on foot in India and obtained from the Raja permission for the Danish East India Company to plant a colony in Tranquebar. Gedde and Crape now took counsels together and persuaded the Raja to make a treaty in November 1620, granting the Company right to trade besides permission to build a fort in Tranquebar. Here accordingly Gedde laid the foundations of the fort of Danesberg. Henrik Hess was made the first Commander, and R. Crape appointed Chief of the new colony. Four years later the fort became the property of the King of Denmark to whom the D. E. I. Company owed money. Gedde returned to Copenhagen in march 1622 with his two men-of-war, after planting the Danish flag in Tranquebar. There it continued to fly for over two centuries until 1845, when by a Treaty of Transfer the Danish possessions in India were made over to the British East India Company for a paltry sum of money. The treaty of Ceylon was never made use of by the Danes, as after planting their colony in Tranquebar, they concentrated their attention on trade with Bengal.

In 1623 the first Danish ship from Tranquebar was sent to Bengal to trade in the mouth of the Ganges. The ship contained a cargo of lead, then one of the most highly priced articles in North India. The ship was wrecked off Musalipatam. The officers and men, however, saved themselves and returned to Tranquebar.

The failure did not dishearten Roland Crape, the Chief in Tranquebar, and he fitted out fresh vessels,

The Danish sailors were little acquainted with the dangers of the bay and most of their ships were lost. Such, however, was the passion for commercial profit, that the enterprise, though so risky, was not abandoned.

In 1626 the Danes set up their first factory at Pipley² and shortly afterwards another at Balasore,³ in Bengal. The same year, a Danish vessel named Jupiter came to Balasore with a precious cargo from Maccassar, but before the Danes could obtain permission from the

2 The Portuguese effected a settlement at Pipley at the end of the 16th century. A few years later the Dutch also stepped in. Pipley was one of the greatest seaports in the 16th century and the trade of the province from and to the port of Pipley was carried on by means of the river Subarnarekha. It was a great slave mart where the Arakenese pirates in league with the Portuguese brought their prisoners. Captain Alexander Hamilton speaks of the English also having had a factory there. The settlement of the English must have been of later origin than that of the Danes. According to Hamilton "the floods of Subarnarekha having washed away a great part of the town and formed a dangerous bar in the river, the English merchants moved to Balasore. In the beginning of the 19th century it was, according to the same authority, still one of the chief places in Midnapur; but the silting up of the Subarnarekha was fatal to its prosperity. For some time it lingered on as a ruined and silt-locked village; but has now entirely disappeared." Bengal Dt. Gazetteer. Balasore.

3 W. Clavella's account, that the Danes endeavoured to settle their factory in Balasore sometime after 1636 cannot be correct. (Hedge's Diary Vol. p. 240.) His account is also contradicted by William Bruton, who speaks of the passes being granted by the English Danes or Dutch ever before 1633, to vessels trading on coast of Orissa—a fact which shows that the Danes must have made their way into the North of the Bay prior to that date.

Mahomedan ruler Baber Khan, to unload the ship, it was upset by a storm and the stranded property was taken possession of by the Governor's men.

In 1626 two ships came to Piple, of which one was subsequently lost in a storm while the other proceeded to Balasore, where it took a small cargo. Within a few years, however, of their settlement in Bengal, the Danes were compelled to give up, for a time, all commercial relations with Bengal and they entered into open hostilities with the Moghuls.

The loss sustained by the Danes owing to the failure of a good number of their ships during the first few years of their settlement in Bengal was not made up by the success of a few. They were compelled to recall the Danish factors to Tranquebar and leave the factories in charge of native assistants. The Bengali merchants might be willing to trade with the Danes, but the latter, it should be remembered, had obtained as yet no trading rights from the Mahomedan rulers of the country. The local Governors, the Danes complained, were partial to the other European settlers, while they demanded from the Danes duties at high rates, presents, shares of their profits in trade and pecuniary gratification of every possible shape. The Danes further complained that the local Governors obstructed them in loading or unloading their vessels, that they claimed the stranded goods of the Danish vessels as their own and that they sometimes went so far as to arrest their men and demand ransom for their release.

In the year 1626, R. Crape had sent Erric Crape to Bengal to come to definite understanding with the

Moghuls about trading rights, but Crape appears to have achieved nothing in this direction. All this might have given no small amount of irritation to the Danes, who, besides, soon discovered that neither at Piplely nor in Balasore were they able to hold their ground against the Dutch traders, who were not only favoured by the local Governors but who had also established such a firm footing in those two places as to make it impossible for any new comers to thrive in trade. Before Calcutta had risen into importance, Balasore was the greatest port of Bengal. It was the great emporium of the East and the West. Ships from Arabia, Persia, on the one hand and those from Siam, the Strait Settlements on the other, came here to trade. But all this vast trade was principally in the hands of the Dutch. The Danes soon found out they could do little here.

Within a few years of their settlement at Piplely, the Danes had come into unfriendly relations with Mirza Mumin the Mahomedan ruler of the place. In 1641 A. D., on a slight pretext three hundred of the Nawab's army besieged the Danish lodge at Piplely, took it plundered it and levelled it to the ground. The Danes now made up their mind to quarrel. They gave up their factory at Balasore. Bernt Pessart who had succeeded Crape in Tranquebar, declared war with the Moghuls in 1642 A. D., and sent two armed ships to play havoc on the Moghul ships trading in the Bay. William Leyel, who had been for some time at Piplely, was entrusted to conduct the sea-fight. He appears to have plundered a few marchantmen of the Moghuls and having seized one with nine canons as a prize vessel proceeded to Tranque-

bar where he was received with great joy. Soon after his return to Tranquebar, Leyel sent out to Bengal two armed ships under J. Hansen and Simon Jansen. In September 1644, the Danes captured another Moghul ship in the Bay.

In the course of a struggle with a party that had little or nothing to lose in land or money, the Moghuls could expect little advantage or profit. The Danes appeared to them as no better than sea-pirates, who waited for their prey in the high waters and finding an opportunity made unexpected raids on the coastal towns. The Moghuls had no regular navy with the aid of which they could successfully put a stop to these Danish depredations. In the beginning of the year 1645, the Governor of Balasore tried to negotiate for peace with the Danes. Raja Sinha, the king of Ceylon, offered to mediate. The Danes demanded a large sum as compensation and the idea of peace was given up for the time being. Hardly had the quarrel been renewed when the Danish Captain Hansen was invited to Balasore with an assurance from its Governor of satisfaction to the Danish demand. But again nothing came out of this interview, and the Danish Captain in great anger attacked and plundered the vessels lying in the port. In the year 1647 seven ships, including one belonging to the Emperor, another to his son and a third to the Governor of Balasore, fell successively into the hands of the Danes. The Mahomedans did not want to continue the struggle any longer.

In the summer of 1647, a Mahomedan ambassador was sent to Tranquebar with a proposal for peace. The ambassador came back on the Danish ship "Christian-

shavns" to Balasore where a peace was concluded after long negotiations. The peace, however, did not last long as the Governor of Balasore who had agreed to grant land to the Danes to build factories on, did not keep his promise. The Danes resumed their hostilities with a ferocity exceeding that of all former years. They not only plundered the Moghul vessels wherever they could, but also put all the crew to death, captured the women and children on board the ships and sold them as slaves. But the Danes, without a regular navy as they were, could not seriously interfere with the commerce of the Moghuls. The total number of the prizes taken by the Danes during a period of thirty-two years did not exceed thirty ships in all.

Meanwhile the company's affairs in Tranquebar were getting into growing disorders and the Danish Government at home, being informed of it, sent Commander Werner Friis in charge of the vessel Magelos to make peace with the Moghuls on behalf of the Government of Denmark. Even before the arrival of Friis, Shaista Khan, the Governor of Bengal, had granted a firman to the Danes to trade in Bengal. Matters were therefore made easy for Friis, who, upon his arrival, proceeded at once to Balasore, where, in 1674, a peace was concluded to the advantage of the Danes. The terms of the treaty were that the Danes were to give up their claim for compensation but they were to be allowed the right of trading duty-free at Piplee and in Balasore, that they were to be granted lands at those two places and to be paid a sum of Rs. 3,000/- towards the initial cost of building their factories and that the Moghuls should give

up all claims for the thirty vessels taken from them by the Danes.

Shortly after the conclusion of the treaty Werner-Friis died. The Danes perceived that the Mahomedans were not likely to retain friendly relations with them for long. Notwithstanding this, they built a lodge in Balasore and for some time the Company's ships came regularly to Bengal.

In 1676, Captain Wilkin Wigbert came to Balasore. He wanted to extend the Company's trade to the whole of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. He proceeded to Dacca, where he saw Nawab Aazim Khan, got the treaty concluded at Balasore, ratified by the Nawab on 5th August 1676, and obtained from him an additional concession of permission to build lodges in Hooghly and to trade, without payment of duties, in the Ganges. The expenses of his journey, including the cost of presents made to the Nawab, amounted to Rs. 6,000/- only. In the same year the Danes built their first factory in Hooghly and another in Balasore. The returns of their trade for the first year showed that the Danish imports from Tranqueber, consisting mainly of copper, lead and sandel-wood, amounted to Rs. 12,000/-, while the value of exports from Bengal, consisting chiefly of silk, linen, salt-petre and wax, amounted to Rs. 20,000-.

In the year 1677 Aurangzeb, the Emperor of Delhi, confirmed the Nawab's firman in every respect save for the fact that he imposed a duty of $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ on all Danish imports and exports. The original document was not given to the Danes but a copy of it was sent to Tranquebar by two heralds. Though an opportunity was thus given to

the Danes of entering into the extensive trade of Bengal, yet they could make little use of it. They found that the English and the Dutch were the principal traders in Hooghly and that it was no easy task for any new comer to compete with them. Besides, the Danes complained that the Moghul Governors of Hooghly were partial to the English and the Dutch traders, while they themselves were subjected to the payment of higher duties than expressed in the terms of the firman and of frequent presents of a still more obnoxious character. Despairing of success the Danes, within a few years of their settlement, gave up their factory in Hooghly and left their factory in Balasore to the charge of an Assistant Manager, with a few factors. Henceforth the Company's trade in Balasore began to grow less every year.

The Council in Tranquebar, which was kept duly informed of the oppressions and exactions by the local Governors, held a secret meeting in February, 1684 and the President sent Gert Kohlendal to remonstrate against the unfair treatment of the Danes by the local Governors. Gert Kohlendal was sent away with empty words that the terms of the firman were being strictly observed. The Danish authorities in Tranquebar were not satisfied with the conduct of the Mahomedans, but they could do little against them, weak as they were in men and resources. They were, however, emboldened when on the 9th July, 1686, Lieut—Col. Wolff Heinrich arrived with two armed ships from Denmark, and they at once directed him to proceed to the Bay where Wolff captured four big vessels and as many small ones belonging to the Moghuls. The biggest of them was sent to Denmark.

where it was received with great joy, while the remaining ships were subsequently put under Danish command and they served Danish interests up to the year 1710.

In the year 1698 Andraas Andrae, the second man in the Council of Tranquebar, came to Bengal and the same year he succeeded in concluding a peace with the Governor of Bengal Mahomed Azumadi—the grandson of the great Moghul Emperor Aurangzeb, on condition that both sides should give up all claims for losses and that the Danes should have the right to trade in Bengal. The Danes did not resort to Balasore again but obtained an extensive site near French Chandernagore for a sum of Rs. 30,000/- which they agreed to pay in equal instalments in ten years.

The Danish lodge in Chandernagore was built in 1699 and the whole lodge was walled in in the following year. Andrae left for Tranquebar leaving Thomas Schmertz with an assistant and thirty men to look after the factory. From the year 1699 to 1713 there was constant change of factors. Schmertz was recalled in 1702 and succeeded by Johan Joachim Michelson, who, in his turn, was succeeded by Jacob Panck in 1706, and Panck by Wolff Raon, and Raon by Attrup. All of these, with the exception of Attrup, were incompetent men and they did little to help the Danish trade. Of Michelson it was jocosely said that the cargo, which he received or sent out, consisted of water. Most of the factors traded on their own account and were not free from corruption. Raon himself was arrested for embezzling company's money. While the Danish trade showed little progress, large sums had been spent in acquiring new

Tranquebar and in Gondalpara in 1710, and in rebuilding the factory in Chandernagore, when the first structure gave way within a few years of its erection. When Attrup took charge, he found that the accounts of the factory were in disorder and such was the economic condition of the factory that, to save it from total ruin, he was compelled to borrow money on high interest. Attrup was by far the best of all the company's factors in Chandernagore and he tried his best to further the company's trade in Bengal. But unfortunately, in 1713, he got into a quarrel with an influential neighbouring Zemindar and through him with the Mahomedans themselves. Attrup tried his best to defend the lodge from the Mahomedan invaders, which he had previously fortified with 22 cannons and a number of troops. At last, when further defence was impossible, he sailed away to Tranquebar with his men and money on a vessel belonging to a Surat merchant; when it was passing by Chandernagore. This was in 1714.

From the year 1714 to 1735 the Danes had little leisure to think of Bengal and their attention was almost wholly directed to Tranquebar where troubles were growing. In the year 1736, however, they sent J. C. Soëman from Tranquebar to enquire into the prospect of trade in Bengal. Soetman landed in Chandernagore where he found that the French had risen into eminence and that the old Danish factory was lying in ruins. He received encouraging words from native merchants but his brother merchants of Europe were little pleased with the idea that the Danes should again settle in Chandernagore. The ship in which he

came returned to Tranquebar in 1737 having made a small profit with its cargo. Bengal, however, was not visited by any Danish ship from Tranquebar till 1751, when the Danes renewed their commercial activities with Bengal and made considerable profits. Encouraged by it, the Danish Company again sent soetman from Tranquebar on the 12th of March, 1753 with Sorren Sparre and Terkel Windelkilde with instructions to select a site for planting a new factory in Bengal. Soetman and his assistants were provided with a letter of introduction from the French General Dupleix to the French authorities in Chandernagore where, upon arrival, they were well received. It might be that the other European nations were jealous of the arrival of a new competitor in the field, but the French did their best to help Soetman. "In 1753 we find Soetman residing in Chandernagore where the vessels consigned to him unloaded their cargoes. The return cargo was shipped from that town as the property of the Governor, M. de Lezret, though not without many disputes with the Nawab's custom-house officers, who doubtless had some suspicion of the ownership of the goods."⁴ As the above practice was found to be inconvenient and ill adapted to their object of a regular trade in Bengal, the Danes began, with the aid of the French, to negotiate with the Nawab for his permission to establish a settlement in Bengal.

On the 15th of July, 1755. the Danes succeeded in obtaining a firman from Alivardi Khan, the Nawab

4. Calcutta Review 1845.

of Bengal, to purchase a few acres of land and establish a factory at serampore. The Nawab himself does not appear to have been well inclined towards granting a firman to the Danes but he yielded, at last, to the importunities of his favourite grandson Sirajuddowla to meet whose extravagancies, it is said, the old Nawab had imposed Abwabs to the extent of Rs. 2, 225, 554/.⁵ The total expenditure of the Danes in obtaining the firman amounted to more than Rs. 150,000/- including a Nazar of Rs. 50,000/- to the Nawab and presents to the value of Rs. 30,000/- to Rs. 40,000/- among the favourites and officials of the court. The Nawab did not keep anything to himself, but allowed his favourite grandson to have all the benefits.⁶ Two years later, the sovereignty of Bengal, Behar and Orissa passed out of the hands of the Nawab into those of the English, so that the settling of the Danes may be said to be one of the last acts of severignty exercised by the Nawabs of Moorsidabad.

The Danes were evidently much indebted to the good offices of the French in getting the affair concluded. It would be seen from the extract from Mr. Law's letter that the entire credit for the affair was claimed by him.⁷ Renault, the Governor of

5. The Musnud of Moorsidabad.

6. Bengal in 1756—57.

7. Monsieur Law thus writes in his journal : "The previous year (1755) had brought him (Sirajuddowla) in a good deal of money owing to the bussiness of establishing the Danes in Bengal. In fact it was only by means of his order that I managed to conclude the affair and the Nawab Alivardi Khan let him have all the profit."

Chandernagore, equally claimed the entire credit to himself.⁸ It would be fair to distribute the credit between the rival claimants. Monsieur Law, a nephew of the famous John Law, the projector of the Mississippi scheme, was the chief of the company's factory at Cossimbazar and had great influence at the court of Moorsidabad. The letters which he wrote in April and the two succeeding months of 1755, were lately in existence at Tranquebar and would throw much light on the politics of the Moorsidabad court at this interesting period. There were no public posts in Bengal at that time and Mr. Law's letter of 30th July announcing that he had succeeded in obtaining a *perwana* for the erection of a factory at Sermpore, took twelve days in reaching Chandernagore. Mr. Law himself arrived with that document on the 6th of September together with an order on the Fouzdar of Hooghly to deliver possession, but a month elapsed before the arrangements with this important personage could be completed.⁹

On the 7th October, 1755, Soetman with his assistants reached Serampore to take possession of the ground. They were entitled by the firman to the occupation of 60 bighas of land. Soetman chose 3 bighas of land at Serampore on the river side for the secure anchorage before it and the remaining 57 bighas at Akna. This was prudently done, for to take the entire ground at Serampore with the buildings that stood on it would

8. I have had the honour to inform you that I had succeeded in obtaining the establishment of the Danes in Bengal and they seem very well satisfied with my efforts towards that end.

9. Calcutta Review 1845.

have been much more expensive. On the 8th of october, 1755, the Danish flag was hoisted at Serampore, where it continued to fly for the next 90 years, and four peons were posted to guard it. The settlement was named "Fredericksnagore" after Frederiok V, the king of Denmark, and a small battery was placed on the river bank alongside the Ghat. Soetman was appointed the first Chief of the settlement. Besides, a few Danish officers, soldiers and sailors, two superintendents, one native adjudicator, 22 watchmen, 6 lance-bearers and four torch-bearers were taken into the Danish service.

Shortly after the foundation of the Settlement, a ware-house was erected and the whole factory was surrounded with a mud fence. The total expenditure involving the purchase of the land, the erection of the ware-house and the enclosing of it amounted to Rs. 200,000/-.

Though liberty was granted to the Danes of trading in Bengal and of establishing a settlement there, they were not allowed to build forts or keep garrisons.¹⁰ Nawab Ali Vardi Khan was a ruler, gifted with political foresight. He knew how the foreign settlers in the past, the Dutch and the Portuguesse for instance, had proved formidable enemies to the rulers of the country. He was watching, with restless anxiety, how the English in Calcutta were daily rising into power. He remembered well how the Danes themselves had, of late years, given no small cause of anxiety to the Mahomedan rulers of the land. From a consideration of each or all of the above circumstances, the old Nawab prohibited the

Danes the use either of garrison or of fortifications. Accordingly, the Danes did not build any forts in Serampore and the number of Danish soldiers in the settlement, even in the days of its highest commercial prosperity, did not exceed fifty. For this want of strength the Danes were held in contempt by the other trading nations of Europe. It was owing to this military weakness that the Danish trade was never placed on a secure footing.¹¹ It was owing to this weakness that the Danes and the Danish trade were at the mercy, at one time, of an oppressive local Governor, at another time, of another trading nation. To this weakness of position was also due the ultimate collapse of the Danish trade from a state of unprecedented grandeur to which it had risen for a short time. The truth of all this will be illustrated in the sequel. Notwithstanding this weakness in men and resources the Danes, soon after their settlement in Serampore, were called on for help by the young Nawab of Bengal, Sirajuddaoulah, when, in 1756, he was marching down to Calcutta at the head of 50,000 men to punish the English for having fortified Calcutta and given protection to Krishna Das¹². When passing through Barrackpore,

11."Reduce your commerce to the footing of the Prussians and Danes etc., without forts and garrisons at all, and on payment of the lowest duty that can be stipulated"—Extract from a letter from Mr. J. Z. Holwell to the Court of Directors dated, Fulta, 30th Novembet, 1756.

12. "Desire the French, Dutch and Danes to be expeditious in getting their vessles of force in readiness to accompany my land army and attack the English by the river while I besiege them on shore. I have sent them Parwanas likewise, to that purport and (God

the Nawab sent an officer across the river over to Serampore, directing Soetman to join the Nawab's army with all his available horse, foot and artillery. Soetman humbly replied that he had neither horse, foot nor guns, and that he was living in a miserable hut with a few constables¹³. This reply did not evidently pleased the Nawab, who, on his return from the capture of Calcutta, subjected the Danes to a fine of Rs. 25,000¹⁴. This imposition of a fine must have pressed hard upon the Danes in Serampore, as, up to this time they had received but one ship from Tranquebar¹⁵.

willing) I shall soon appear before Calcutta." Extract from a letter from the Nawab to Coja Wajid on the way to Calcutta. Bengal in 1756-57. Vol. I Page 5.

13. Calcutta Review 1845.

14. "The other nations (including the Danes) trading out here, though in no way asked for assistance, and consequently innocent of the crime of refusing, had also to bring their offerings according to their means"—Translation of a letter from the Dutch Director and Council of Bengal to the Assembly of Seventeen in Holland, Dated, Hughli, 2-1-1757. This is not quite a correct statement. It would be seen from the Nawab's letter from which an extract has already been given, that the Nawab did ask for assistance. The following seems nearer the truth. ".....The remaining nations carrying on business here have, as well as the French, had to make a free offering according to the degree of each one's ability.

The Danes. Rs. 25,000

The Portuguese. „ 5,000

The Emdeners. „ 5,000" Translation of a letter from

the Dutch Council at Hooghly to the Supreme Council at Batavia, dated, Fort Gustavas, 24th November, 1756. Bengal in 1756-57 Vol. I

15. "The Danes have received only one ship, named the "King

Soetman retired on 10th January 1758. Bartholomæus Lebrecht Ziegenbalg, son of the famous Tranquebar missionary of the same name, became Chief. In the same year he became involved in a serious quarrel with the English—the result of the misunderstanding that had been growing between the English and the Danes for some time past. To understand it, it would be necessary to advert to the events that preceded it.

In 1756 there broke out in Europe the great war, known in English History as the Seven Years' War. England and France took part in it as allies of the rival parties. The war in Europe gave an opportunity of fighting to the English and the French in India, where they had already become rivals for supremacy.¹⁶ When Chandernagore fell into the hands of the English on 23rd March, 1757, after a splendid defence put up by the French garrison, some of the French soldiers escaped to Serampore, where they were hospitably received by the Danes, who evidently did not forget the friendly help given them by the French a couple of years ago¹⁷. Later on while the quarrel between the French and the English continued, a good many foreigners, including a few Portuguese and Dutch besides some Frenchmen came to reside in Serampore. It was believed by the English that

of Denmark" from Tranquebar which is to return before long, consequently the nation is getting on very badly"—Bengal in 1756-57.

16. Under the impression that the French were plotting with the Nawab of Bengal against them, the English besieged Chandernagore.

17. Mr. Renault's letter to Marquis of Duplex, dated, Chandernagore, the 30th September, 1757.

the Danes in Serampore were also harbouring French soldiers. On the 22nd October, 1758, two companies of English soldiers as well as some armed vessels were sent up to Serampore to cut it off from all communications with the outer world. The blockade was not withdrawn until the English were satisfied that there were no French soldiers in the town. But even then the friendly relations between the English and the Danes were not restored. In a letter to the Court, dated, 30-11-1758, the English complained of the partial behaviour of the Danes to the French, of the Chief of the factory having in the preceding year sent a ship to Pondichery with that commodity and provision which proved a seasonable relief to the enemy, and of the Chief's being constantly the channel through which correspondence was carried on between the coast and the French remaining in the province of Bengal¹⁸. In the beginning of January 1759, the English Council at Calcutta stopped the passage of the "King of Denmark", which was intended to carry rice to Tranquebar¹⁹. Ziegenbalg's letter of protest was received by the Council on 10th January 1759, and on the following day it held a sitting²⁰. The Council resolved to inform the Danes in Serampore that their political behaviour towards the French as well as that of their Superior Governor Crag had obliged the English to be more watchful of their conduct in future and that as it was well known that the Danes had supplied the French

18. Long's Selections P. 151.

19. Long's Selections P. 168.

20. Long's Selections P. 162.

in the previous year with provisions from Fredericksnagar, the English had detained their ships to prevent the like in future. In their letter to Court, on February 8, 1759, the English Government made a more serious charge against the Danes—that of supplying provision as well as salt-petre to the French and thus justified themselves for the course they had adopted—viz, the detaining of the Danish ship. After a prolonged correspondence between the English and the Danes at Serampore, it was at last settled that the English should allow the "King of Denmark" to proceed to Madras to land its cargo, but that it should be escorted by an English vessel.

The object of the Danes was to trade in Bengal. Even if they had the inclination, they had not the means to go into a war with the English whose empire in the East had already begun. On hearing the complaint from the English they dismissed Crag from the Governorship of Tranquebar and the amicable feelings between the English and the Danes were restored.

On the 27th January, 1759, Ziegenbalg acquired the remainder of Mauja Serampore, of Mouja Akna and Mouja Pearapore from the Zeminders of Sheoraphuli to whom they agreed to pay an annual rent of sicca Rs. 1,601/-. The whole land was named as the Serampore Estate. When the Danes made over their settlement to the English in 1845, one of the articles of the treaty of purchase was that the English should continue to pay annually to the Zeminders of Sheoraphully Sicca Rs. 1,601/-. The whole of the Serampore Estate is now borne on the British Touji No. 2279. The Danish

territory after the purchase of land from the Zeminders of Sheoraphuli, comprised 1680 bigas of land. Owing to the new acquirement of land Ziegenbalg had to keep more officers and to increase the number of the police.

In the middle of the 18th century the name of the Mahrattas inspired fear in the minds of the rulers and the people alike. In 1760 the Mahrattas conquered Midnapore and proceeded towards Burdwan in their plundering expedition. In the Council proceedings of 21st February, 1760, the English Government recognised the need of sending a strong military force to arrest their advance. The Danes in Serampore grew afraid of the Mahrattas. Their trade,²¹ it is true, had not yet flourished but they were without either a strong army or fortifications. In their apprehension of the Mahrattas the Danes, through their Chief of Serampore, applied to the English for a loan of four cannons and ammunition. The Council, perhaps remembering their differences with the Danes in the past, were unwilling to offer their help to the Danes. In the proceedings of the 12th May, 1760, the Council observed :

"Council are sorry it is not in their power to assist them (the Danes) with cannons and military stores as requested, but they judge the Danes have little or nothing to apprehend from the Mahrattas as long as the Company's party under the command of Capt. Spears remains in their neighbourhood."

Ziegenbalg retired on 2nd October and was succeeded

21. Stavorinus who visited Serampore (1769 A. D.) thus writes :—"They (the Danes) receive only one or two ships every year from Europe and they have no country trade whatever."

by Tarkel Windelkide. During his term of office extending up to 14th August 1762, no event of any note took place. The Danish trade continued dull as during the time of his predecessors in office. In 1761 a sort of Catholic institution was set up in Serampore by the Catholic priest named Anselmo. Beside this building, the Catholic Church was subsequently raised.

De Marches became Chief on 14th August, 1762. He had been sometime in the service of the Dutch East India Company in India. He did no good to the settlement. As he was a Frenchman he was looked upon with suspicion by the English Government. He soon became involved in a serious quarrel with the English in the following way. While two Companies of sepoys belonging to the English army were coming from Calcutta to Ghirte by the Grand Trunk Road, which passes through Serampore, a Jamaddar, a Havildar and a Sepoy strayed behind, quarrelled with some natives, were arrested by Mr. Tyrholm, Sheriff of the town, sent up to the native Judge and flogged. The English took it as an insult and asked for satisfaction of the Danes. After a few letters had been exchanged between the English and the Danes, Major Adams with a force about six hundred strong, proceeded to besiege Serampore on 4th April, 1763. The Major on his arrival near the town wrote to the Chief to hand over the Judge, which the Chief steadily refused to do, saying that the Judge was perfectly justified in punishing the offending English soldiers. At last after receiving an apology from the Chief and the Judge, the Major withdrew his men. The English gave an account of the affair to the Court of Directors, who in their

reply of 22nd February, 1764, though advising the English to keep a watchful eye on the Danes, warned them at the same time to avoid with the utmost care the proceeding to extremities.

De Marches left his office on 3rd October, 1760 and Tyrholm took his place. Soon after his accession the settlement suffered heavily from a storm and a heavy flood. Many houses fell down and there was distress among the people.

The Company's trade up to the time had been of little consequence and both imports and exports were dull. It now began to show some signs of improvement, owing, chiefly, to the circumstance that the English had for sometime past been engaged in war with Mir Kasim, and the English trade consequently suffered. A diamond grinder named Owen Bowen opened his business in Serampore. A Frenchman, named Louis Fourier set up a cotton-printing farm which was the biggest in Bengal for several years. More than 250 workers found employment in it. A number of cotton looms were started and Serampore acquired a name and fame for its cotton weaving and its damasc cloth which the Danes began to export to Europeans and Eastern countries. A good number of Europeans came to reside in Serampore, a number of brick houses rose on the river side which were converted into regular European quarters. About the same time, the villages of Pearapore, because of its extensive rice fields, rose in prosperity above the surrounding villages.

When the Danes obtained permission from the Nawab Ali Vardi Khan to trade in Bengal, it was on condition that they should pay a duty of $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ on their

imports and exports. The Danes paid customs duty to the Phaujdar of Hooghly regularly in quarterly instalments. Yet they complained of the oppression of the Phaujders, who, they said, made from time to time a demand for a higher rate of duty, sometimes for the quarterly payment of duties after they had already been paid, and some times sieged their goods on the plea of arrears. In their proceedings of July 21, 1763, the English Council at Calcutta refers to a letter received from Fredericksnagore acquainting them that the new Phaujdar of Hooghly had made a demand on the Danes for the quarterly tribute from their factory though they had paid it but a few days ago to the old Phaujdar and requesting the intercession of the Council to have them (the Danes) absolved from the payment of the unjust demand. The President on receipt of the letter wrote to the Phaujdar to desist from his demand. In the same year the oppression of the Phaujdar of Hooghly again figures in the following extract from a letter from the Governor to the Nawab : "The chief of Serampore on the part of the Danes has wrote me that he sent his Vakil to the Hooghly Phaujdar and examined his papers from which it appeared that he had paid Rs. 10,000 more than was customary ; notwithstanding this, the Hoogly Fauzdar Syed Buddul Khan stopped some of the bales of cloth. He released them indeed upon the receipt of a letter from me on the subject, but the next day stopped some more of his bales and would not suffer them to pass."

Oppressions like the above must have told upon

-the trade of the Danes at Serampore. Tyrholm was happy to see that such oppression by the Phaujdar became impossible after 1765 A. D.—the year when the Emperor Shah Alam granted the Diwani of Bengal, Behar and Orissa to the English who became the Collectors of revenue and the Danes began to pay their revenue to the English instead.

Tyrholm died on 20th January, 1767. After his death Michael Frederick, Charles Cazenove, James Brown and Hinckel were successive Chiefs of Serampore within a short time of each other. They were inefficient men and some of them unworthy of trust. After his retirement James Brown was sued by the Company at Home for misconduct. When the Company appointed Frederick Hinckel as his successor, they appointed two other men as his colleagues in administration as a guarantee against future misconduct on the part of the new Chief. The state of the settlement during Hinckel's Government was as bad as could be. Famine and pestilence stared the people in the face. The Company's affairs were in disorder and their trade languished. Stavorinus who visited Serampore in 1768, gives the following picture of it: "Going down from Chinsurah, I landed at Serampore where the Danes have a factory. This is the most inconsiderable European establishment on the Ganges, consisting only besides the village occupied by the natives, in a few houses inhabited by the Europeans. Their trade is of very little importance." Elsewhere the same writer observes: "They (the Danes) receive only one or two ships every year from Europe and they have no country

trade whatever". Grandpre, who also visited Serampore about this time, gives a little different account. He thus writes: "It furnishes a few bales of goods to a couple of vessels belonging to the Danish Company which come for them annually. It supplies also one or two private vessels which the privilege of the Company does not exclude from this market." Thus the Danish trade at Serampore had both its imports and export though that trade itself was small.

John Leonhard Fix became Chief on the 14th of September, 1770. Though the trade of the Company did not revive during his rule, yet he improved the appearance of the settlement. The mud house, assigned for Chief's residence, fell down on 2nd December, 1770, and Fix constructed a new brick-house inside a big garden in 1771 at an expense of Rs, 25,000. A second story was added to the Watch-house and it became the residence of the Secretary.

Fix made over his charge on 4th September, 1772 to Ole Blew when the latter arrived at Serampore to arrange for a new factory at Patna. Fix again became Chief on the 28th December, 1772. In the beginning of the following year a piece of ground was bought at Patna for Sicca Rs. 6,000 and a factory was set up there. Jorgen Borner was sent out from Tranquebar to be resident of the Company's trade at Patna. Twice a year a few boats laden with saltpetre, opium and cloth came from Patna to Serampore. Transmission of goods by water was not then safe and sometimes the Company's boats were plundered by robbers and occasionally a few of them were sunk under water.

Fix made over his command to Andreas Hiernoc on the 27th August, 1773. Desirous of trading on his own account, he entered into partnership with an Englishman and the firm bore the joint name of "Fix and Fenwick."

Hiernoc, who succeeded Fix, had for some time been in India and had acquired skill in conducting the affairs of a factory by his previous experience as the Chief of Calicut. The state of the Company's trade at Serampore grew better and a few foreigners were induced by the prospect of commerce to come over to Serampore. The Danes had still a factory at Balasore where they were left unmolested by the Mahrattas who had become a formidable power in India.

Ole Bie became Chief on the 26th of September, 1776. Formerly he had been in the service of the Danish East India Company for twenty years, first, as an Additional Assistant to the Chief of Tranquebar and, subsequently, as Secretary to the Tranquebar Government—in both of which offices he had shown conspicuous abilities.

In 1772 the Danish East India Company gave up the monopoly of their trade in the East and the field was thrown open to private enterprise. Grandpre refers to this side of the Danish trade in the following terms: "It supplies also one or two private vessels which the privilege of the Company does not exclude." The number of private traders quickly increased during Ole Bie's rule. The private traders were required to pay a certain amount to the Danish Government for the privilege of loading and unloading their vessels at the port of Serampore. In 1776 several ships belonging to Bengal merchants left the port under Danish colours for Europe.

In 1777, the Indian colonies of the Danish Asiatic Company were transferred to the Crown of Denmark. On the 17th of September, 1778, the settlement of Serampore was brought under the direct administration of the Crown and Ole Bie made Crown-regent. Government and commercial business, which had hitherto remained blended together, became not only separated from each other but the following important change was made for the better administration of the settlement. The administration was to be carried on by a Council of three. The Crown Resident or the Chief Director was to be the President of the Council and the most important member of the three. The second in importance was to be called the Chief of the Troops and he was also to be the Master of Ordnance. The third member was to be called the Alderman of the town and he was also to be Judge, the Sheriff and the head of the Police. The members were to be assisted by a Secretary who was also to be the keeper of the Records. To look into the conduct of the commerce of the settlement, two customs officers and a harbour-master besides a number of lower-grade assistants were appointed. The complement of soldiers was increased to fifty and two military officers were appointed. The Police was also strengthened by thirty new appointments and it was placed under the immediate control of the Kotal who was accountable to the third member of the Council.

In September 1779, the Patna and Balasore lodges were also taken over by the Crown and in each place a Royal Resident was appointed. Patna and Balasore were made politically dependent on Serampore.

merce of Serampore grew apace with its political importance. In tracing its growth we find the following factors at work :—

First, the commerce of Serampore was greatly assisted by the capital of the servants of the English East India Company. The privilege of that Company of monopolizing trade in Bengal, though not abolished until the Charter Act of 1813, was grossly abused by the Company's servants, who, making use of the Company's permits, traded on their own account and made splendid *fortunes* for themselves. "The fortunes, accumulated by the servants of the East India Company, had commonly been paid into the Calcutta Treasury in exchange for bills on the Court of Directors in London. The court was thus subject to irregular and unexpected demands in England to suit the convenience, not of their own commerce, but of their rapacious and gluttoned servants. They were obliged at length to restrain this accommodation within a very narrow limit, and the accumulations of their servants were afterwards in great part transmitted to Europe in Danish investments." This accession of capital gave a strong impulse to the commercial enterprise of Serampore,

Secondly, the commercial prosperity of the town was due to the facilities which the settlement afforded to the trade of England being carried on under Danish protection whenever that country was involved in a war with a hostile nation. In 1780 England became involved in a war with France, Spain and Holland, which espoused the cause of the American Colonists in their struggle for independence with the mother country. France, Spain

and Holland, which were then great naval powers, sent out armed vessels to the Bay of Bengal to cut off the English trade. "English vessels were exposed to the attacks of privateers especially of French privateers from Mauritius and Re-Union who captured a large number of Indiamen" and rates of insurance rose forbiddingly heavy. The effect of this on the commerce of Serampore was twofold. As a matter of course a great part of the trade of the Province became concentrated in Serampore which was the centre port of the district lying between Hooghly and Howrah. In proportion as the trade of the English declined, that of the Danes prospered. Again, as goods shipped from Serampore went in neutral bottoms, Danish ships got valuable freights from the English at high rates. Between the year 1779 and 1787, fifty-three ships, some belonging to the Danish East India Company and some to the English merchants, but all of them under Danish colours, sailed away from Bengal. In the year 1784 alone, no less than 22 ships, almost all of them three-masters, cleared from the port of Serampore within the short space of nine months. The average of the ship load was estimated at above five lakhs of rupees. This trade though eminently profitable to the Danish East India Company, was still more advantageous to their factors who, while in receipt of salaries not exceeding Rs. 200 a month, drank champagne at Rs. 50/- a dozen and in a few years returned to Denmark with large fortunes. The late John Palmer of Calcutta, usually styled the Prince of merchants, was the agent of the Danish East India Company and affirmed that he sat day after day in the godowns at Serampore, counting and weighing

out goods and he seldom realized less than a lakh of rupees a year.

Though the trade of Fredericksnagore during the rule of Colonel Ole Bie flourished beyond its past history, yet the political relation between the Governor of the little Danish town and the English Government at Calcutta was not a happy one. It may be remembered that the Nawab's firman had authorised the Danes to trade in Bengal on payment of $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ duty on their exports and imports. When the sovereignty of Bengal passed out of the hands of the Mahomedans into those of the English and the English, soon after, became collectors of revenues in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, the Danes began to pay the stipulated duty to the English. But, before long, the English, as the Danes complained, asked for payment of duty of another $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ on goods that passed by Calcutta. In 1782, the English prohibited the export of food-stuffs from Bengal, raised the import duty on salt to 10 % in the interest of their newly built salt factories and restricted the export of salt-petre and opium which gave a deathblow to the Danish lodge at Patna. It is true that the English, who were then involved in the great Continental War, were compelled to adopt some of these measures which, nontheless, exasperated the Danes. Colonel Bie, the Chief of the little town of Serampore, who in resolute determination, bold independence and unflinching spirit was quite a match for even the great English Governor Warren Hastings, at last made up his mind to pay no duties whatsoever and laid claim to immunity in virtue of a pretended firman. Warren Hasting's own words, which we quote for the

edification of the reader, will be read with interest as illustrative of the situation in which the great English Governor was then placed. Referring to the event he writes : "The Danish settlement of Fredericksnagore is become a great resort of trade, and the Chief, Mr. Bie, whose behaviour as well as that of his predecessors had been invariably humble and unassuming, has lately adopted a tone of independence and laid claim to immunities in virtue of a pretended firman of which he refuses to produce a copy". But Hastings was too prudent to be duped by a mere assertion of such immunities and he thus writes on in his Review of the State of Bengal : "It is true that the British Government, having the power, might, with ease, repress every opposition to its rights and to the rules which it has prescribed for the navigation of the river Ganges, which is its proper dominion ; but, if a brutal commander shall refuse to admit the vessels of our officers and ill treat them, I am not sure it will always be prudent for members of Government to punish the outrage, although it would certainly be their duty to do it ; since, it would, without fail, become a subject of passionate and exaggerated appeal from the suffering party to its constituent state ; and if it should not suit the situation of our own at the time to hazard an open rupture with it, an easy sacrifice might be made of the devoted offenders and that conduct, which in a better supported member of the British dominion would be applauded and rewarded, would in this instance, be reprobated with the aid and influence of that fashionable prejudice which ascribes every act of the Government of Bengal to improper motives and brands the authors with criminality".

Notwithstanding the angry mood reflected in the above, Mr. Hastings reluctantly conceded to the Danish claim chiefly in consideration of the delicate situation of England having been at war with America, France and Holland and secondarily through diffidence of finding support in his own country, if he adopted a sterner measure.

Ole Bie was ambitious and wanted to make money for himself by engaging in private trade. In 1782, he took in his hands the collection of the Hooghly river toll from the English on condition of payment of an annual sum of Rs. 7,000/-. This was hardly consistent with his position as a Danish Chief and he was compelled to give it up the next year. On the 29th of March, 1783, a Commission was appointed to enquire into his conduct and Ole Bie left Fredericksnagore early in 1785 to stand his trial at home for a charge framed by the Commission.

Friderich Ludvigle Febvre officiated as Chief of Serampore during Ole Bie's absence. He had been some time in the Company's service at Tranquebar, where he had betrayed want of administrative capacity.

For some time past, a sand bank was forming in the Hooghly, about a mile south of the Danish town of Serampore, with the result that it impeded the course of big ships and threatened quickly to destroy the usefulness of the port of Serampore. A new plot of ground, a mile south of the harbour, was thought of for purchase as site for a new harbour but the procrastination of the Chief in settling the terms of the purchase caused it to be transferred to other hands.

Ole Bie was acquitted in 1786 and he came back to Serampore on 28th July, 1788 and resumed charge.

In 1792 the English prohibited the Danes from importing salt, but the prohibition was soon withdrawn through the skilful negotiations of Colonel Bie.

In 1797 Colonel Bie built a bazar, which he named after himself. The bazar was afterwards sold to the Government for Rs. 4000, and renamed as the "Crown Bazar." It stood on a ground of 6 bighas.

On the 13th of June, 1798, the Crown of Denmark conferred distinguished honours on Colonel Bie in consideration of his services.

In the meantime the Great Revolution in France had broken out, and England, in her dread of the Revolution, had declared war with France. But England's method of carrying on war at sea, in which she not only insisted on seizing all French goods which were being carried in neutral vessels, but also as far as possible put a stop to any trade with France, had excited the ill will of the neutral States—Russia, Sweden, Denmark and Prussia—who formed what was called an armed neutrality. It was greatly feared that this was only a step towards joining France. So, in 1801, Nelson attacked the Danish fleet in Copenhagen harbour and destroyed or captured the greater part of it.²²

On hearing of the rupture of political relations between England and Denmark in Europe, the English Government at Calcutta hastened to take possession of the Danish Colonies in India. On the 8th of May, 1801, long before sunrise, a detachment of English

from Barrackpore crossed over to Serampore, while a Danish sepoy came running up to the Government House to announce that an English Force, 300 strong, under the command of Major Dixon, was advancing to capture the town with a warrant from Lord Wellesley. The Danish town was not fortified while its garrison numbered only 44 sepoys. It would have been an act of sheer madness if Colonel Bie, with such a force, stood up to resist the might of the British compared with which his own little town was, as it were, a mere speck in the sky. Colonel Bie surrendered the town without bloodshed. The vessels in the harbour, the rich merchandise in the store-house were captured by the English as prize of the victory. The Danish flag was taken down from the flag-house and English colours were hoisted in its place. The townsmen were still in their morning slumbers, when the town passed quietly from the hands of the Danes into those of their conquerors.

This change of rulers, brought about by an act of enchantment as it were, surprised all but gave no cause of apprehension to any of the inhabitants except the little band of Baptist Missionaries, who had recently found an asylum in the Danish Colony under the protecting care of Colonel Bie. Strange as it may appear to many of our readers, the preaching of the Christian Gospel among the natives of India was, under an Act of the British Parliament, forbidden within the British territories in India.

It was here in Danish Serampore, outside the jurisdiction of the British Empire, that the Baptist Missionaries had built their stronghold for the spreading

of the evangelical light among the natives of India. The English Commissioner convened a meeting in the Government House, of the principal inhabitants and of all the foreigners residing in the town, and after treating them with courtesy all alike exhorted them, under a solemn assurance of protection, to continue their avocations unconcernedly as before. The missionaries were relieved to find that the views of Lord Wellesley on Christian Mission had apparently changed in their favour, for nothing was said against them by the English Commissioner.

The English considered the occupation of the town as temporary. They did not, therefore, interfere with the administration of the town which was kept up as before. Colonel Ble continued residing in the Government House and the other Danish officers kept doing their usual round of duties. The only changes which resulted were that the Danish trade was suspended for the time being, and that the Danish garrison was replaced by an English garrison of 100 men under Captain Willoughbie for the preservation of the peace and order of the town.

Simultaneously with the capture of Serampore, the Danish lodge at Patna was taken possession of by the English. The Danish lodge at Balasore, however, escaped the fate of her sister lodges owing to the supremacy of the Mahrattas in the neighbourhood.

Peace was concluded at Amiens in 1802, among the belligerent powers of Europe. England restored her conquests with the exception of Trinidad and Ceylon. On the 1st of February, 1802, the Danish ships, capt

at Serampore, were restored and the Danish commerce of the town began at once to revive. But it was not till the 17th of July that R. C. Birich came with a letter of authority to restore the town to the Danes. Colonel Bie refused to take charge of the town without means of defence. Accordingly, on the 19th of July, Birich provided him with sixty guns and ammunition. Some sepoy were got up on the spot, who put on the Danish uniform and marched up at 12 o'clock to relieve the English garrison. The Danish flag was again hoisted, 27 minute-guns were fired and the people shouted three cheers for the Crown of Denmark. The day was observed as a day of rejoicing by all classes of people. The English soldiers withdrew to Giridhi.

A year after the Peace of Amiens Colonel Bie was complimented upon by the King of Denmark, for his prudence and quiet submission during the hostilities of Denmark with England.

In 1800, Colonel Bie undertook the construction of the Lutherean Church at Serampore, which, however, was not completed before his death.

In 1803, the old Kutchery was pulled down and a new edifice erected in its place at a cost of Rs. 7,900.

On the 18th of May, 1805, Colonel Bie died. He was buried in the Serampore church-yard. The following notice of him appeared in the Calcutta Gazette, dated 23rd May, 1805 :—

"On Saturday last, the 18th instant, died at the Government House in Serampore, after a long and painful illness, which he bore with fortitude and resignation, becoming a man and a Christian, His Excellency Colonel

Bie, His Danish Majesty's Governor of that settlement in the 73rd year of his age, a great part of which has been spent in the services of his King in India, Tranquebar and Serampore.

"In private life his liberality and benevolence, together with his urbanity and human philanthropic disposition, made him esteemed by everybody who knew him, and beloved by his numerous relatives, friends and domestics, to whom he has been truly fatherly—in short, by all ranks and descriptions of people living under his Government, as well as by many gentlemen of the English nation; and will render his death sincerely and deeply regretted.

"He was buried on Sunday at 5 o'clock in the morning, under the firing of minute guns, and every military honour the place could afford, attended by the whole settlement to the grave."

Jacob Kraefling succeeded Col. Bie as the Governor of Serampore on the 18th May, 1805.

The trade of Serampore quickly revived after the restoration of the town on the 19th of July 1802, and for the next five years it throve beyond all previous record. This was chiefly due to the fresh outbreak of hostilities between England and France soon after the Peace of Amiens had been concluded. The bay swarmed with French privateers from the Isle of France, and not an English vessel could show herself at the Sandheads without the chance of being captured. English vessels fell by the dozens into the hands of the French privateers—the most enterprising of the French privateers—the most enterprising "cocuf" had in six weeks captured

£300,000. The premium of insurance in Calcutta rose to a prohibitory rate, the trade of the port was completely paralysed and the enemy depredations rose to such a pitch that the Government was eventually constrained to put an embargo on all vessels in the port of Calcutta. As the only ships which could ply without risk were those belonging to the neutral settlement of the Danes in Serampore, the merchants of Calcutta eagerly availed themselves of the neutral flag of Denmark and obtained Danish papers and a Danish Commander for their vessels, as a protection against the enemy privateers. To those who fish in troubled waters, the practice opened a means for making a fortune for themselves at the cost of their own country. It was commonly reported and never contradicted that some of the Calcutta merchants despatched vessels under Danish colours to the Isle of France, where the captured English vessels were brought and confiscated, to purchase their own cargoes at reduced rates and sell them at Calcutta at large profits. The wellknown Mr. Stephens denounced the practice strongly in a pamphlet entitled the *Frauds of Neutrals*. It is said that on one occasion a cargo valued at £100,000 was captured in the British Channel and carried in for adjudication to the Admiralty Court. Sir William Scott contrasted the allowance of the Governor of Serampore with the value of the cargo, and on the ground chiefly of this incongruity condemned both vessel and cargo."

But the course of prosperity never runs smooth. There fell a sudden blow on the commerce of Serampore from which it never afterwards recovered. In the course

of the war with France, England had issued the orders in Council counter to Napoleon's famous Berlin decrees, by which she forbade any trade being carried on with French ports. The enforcement of the orders excited the ill-will of neutral states, as Sweden, Denmark, and the United States, and in 1807 it was learnt that the French had been forming the design of seizing the Danish fleet for their own use. An English expedition to Copenhagen led to the bombardment of the city and the capture of the Danish fleet. The news of this renewal of hostilities between England and Denmark led to the rupture of political relations between the English and the Danes in India, and to the second capture of Serampore by the English.

On the morning of the 28th January, 1808, a detachment of troops from the garrison of Fort William, under the Command of Lt.-Colonel Carey, arrived before Serampore.²³ They were strengthened by three companies of Sepoys that crossed the river from the Cantonment of Barrackpore. The Commander demanded the surrender of the town and the factory and the demand was complied with as a matter of course. With a small garrison of forty native soldiers and the few honey-combed guns, which had been used as a saluting battery for half a century, it would have been an act of folly to offer the least resistance to the British power. The Danish officers and soldiers were taken as prisoners of War, one hundred rifles and other war materials were seized. The valuable merchandise stored in the warehouses as well as the treasure chest

lying between it and the Hooghly, under water. So disastrous an inundation had not been seen for many years past. Hundreds of villages were swept away, the cattle were drowned, and the wretched inhabitants took refuge on elevated mounds or in trees or floated down on the thatched roofs of their ruined houses. The stream of water rolled down violently on the town of Serampore and, in twenty-four hours, its streets were five feet under water. The College buildings, which were elevated above the highest level of inundation, afforded shelter to numerous families, who were fed by the contributions of the charitable. At the same time, a band of river pirates, trusting to the general confusion and apparently defenceless state of the place, attacked the settlement and began to burn and plunder it. Colonel Kraefling with 60 men fought the pirates of whom some were killed, some taken prisoners, while the rest escaped. To secure the town from such depredations in future Colonel Kraefling increased the number of regulars.

Colonel Kraefling died on the 7th October, 1828, and was buried on the eleventh. There was public mourning in Serampore while, as a mark of respect to the deceased Governor, guns were fired from the ramparts of Fort William, and from all the British vessels flags were raised half-mast high.

Hohlenbrig, who had been the Judge-magistrate of the town, succeeded Colonel Kraefling to the Governorship on the 7th October, 1828. In his higher dignity as the Governor of the town he retained that esteem and confidence of the people, which he had earned by his love of order and impartial administration of justice

During his time the town became famous for its manufacture of silk, rum and paper. The decline of the commerce of the town, however, became very visible. Indigenous cotton fabrics, which formed the main item of export, were being steadily replaced in the market by the cheaper goods of Manchester. At the same time the silting up of the river, in front of the settlement, was destroying the usefulness of the harbour. The fall of revenue induced Hohlenbrig to enlist the cheaper services of competent natives to whom every avenue of employment was opened, saving the appointment of the Chief of the Police and of Private Secretary to the Governor.

In 1830, Hohlenbrig gave up the right of sheltering debtors, who fled from British territories to avoid the punishment of the law. Before the introduction of Insolvency Courts in British India persons, who were unable to meet the demand of their creditors, were liable to imprisonment according to the law of the land and it often happened that numbers of them took shelter in Danish territories to escape punishment. In 1829, the Insolvency Courts were introduced in British India, but the law regarding insolvents was so framed that only when, in the first instance, a creditor was either thrown into prison or had escaped from British territories, he could avail himself of the benefit of the law. In view of this strange provision it is clear that when Hohlenbrig parted with his right of sheltering debtors who fled from British territory, it was not from want of any occasion for its exercise.

It was, however, a wise and prudent step, for it not

only removed an occasional cause of difference between the Danish and the English Governments about refugees who sought shelter in Danish territories, but also saved the settlement from the bad reputation it was getting as a place of infamous men. In 1800, Carey thus wrote to Ryland :—"This is a city of refuge for all who are in debt and afraid of their creditors, on which account a degree of disgrace is attached to an inhabitant thereof."

Serampore as a centre of Bishnu worship had long acquired a fame second only to that of Puri in all India. In 1830, there was a huge concourse of pilgrims in Serampore to see the famous Car festival, which comes off annually during the month of June or July. A severe epidemic of cholera broke out, the sick pilgrims were conveyed to the town hall, which was converted into a temporary hospital, and J. O. Voight, Medical officer of the Settlement, attended them. The sympathy of the Governor for the sufferers in their distress endeared him more than ever to the people. The same love for his people urged him to exert his utmost for the prevention of "Suttee", whenever the possibility of such an event was brought to his notice. In the Calcutta Gazette of 21st August, 1823 is recorded a case of self-immolation of a widow in Serampore when Hohlenbrig, then magistrate of the town, was present at the scene. The unflinching resolution, which the widow displayed, surprised him, but nevertheless the sight was too cruel for him to endure, and he earnestly prayed for the opportunity of stopping the practice altogether.

Hohlenbrig died 11th May, 1833. The people voted him a monument as a mark of the respect and love they

bore him. The following notice of him appeared in the "Durpan" : "The Government had been accustomed to draw a considerable revenue from a number of china-men, who erected stalls for gambling by the road-side at the annual festival of Jaggernath, but these dens of iniquity he (Hohlenbrig) would not allow. Everything in his power he used to prevent "Suttee" and we have seen the tears start in his eyes when he was thwarted in his purpose of mercy by a superior authority. He visited every family in distress and portioned out to them funds raised by subscriptions for their relief. Such was his benevolent course in every public emergency, and in private he uniformly exhibited the same generosity of character. In his Judicial and Magisterial duties he invariably manifested the most impartial justice. The personal fatigue to which he submitted in sifting the truth was inconceivable ; and he was scrupulous perhaps to a fault. He lived much retired in the bosom of his family but was held in the strongest regard by all who were fortunate enough to have his friendship."

Johan Christian Boeck, formerly Chief of the Police, became the Governor on 12th May, 1833. The same year a new jail was built adjoining the Court-House. The construction of a brick-built jail had long become a necessity as often times prisoners escaped from the old jail which was made of earth. A band of robbers, chased out from their head-quarters in Calcutta, had long become a pest to Serampore and its adjoining places. Boeck won the gratitude of the people by exterminating the robbers. On the 1st November, 1835 he was replaced by *Johannes Rechling* and given a second place in the

Council for the administration of the town. Boeck took it to heart, and on his way to China died broken-hearted on the 12th of September, 1836.

Johannes Rechling was Governor from 1st November, 1835 to 1st May, 1838. The commerce of the town, which was declining since its second restoration, grew very dull and hardly any ship left the harbour even once in the year. Numbers of traders and labourers left the town for want of business and employment. A census was taken which showed that the total number of inhabitants in Serampore was 11,187 and in Pearapur 1,350 only. Of the pucca houses, of which there were 572 in Serampore, 111 houses were left unoccupied. Government Revenue fell and Rechling was compelled to reduce the garrison to 25 heads.

The necessity of a hospital for the natives having long been felt at Serampore, Rechling at the instance of Dr. Marshman, the celebrated Baptist Missionary, convened on the 28th January 1836, a meeting of the inhabitants, both European and native, at Government House. Subscriptions amounting to Rs. 1,400 were collected on the spot, while another sum of Rs. 1,800 was promised.

The institution was declared as established. A committee was formed, consisting of five Protestant gentlemen, the Roman Catholic Vicar and three wealthy natives. Colonel Rechling, the Governor accepted the office of the President; Mr. Elberling, Secretary to the Governor was to act as Secretary; Dr. Marshman was appointed treasurer and Dr. Voight, the Medical Officer of the Settlement, offered his gratuitous services. The

institution, which was not formally opened till 1st June 1836, was temporarily located in the Government House. Her Sacred Majesty Maria Queen of Denmark became the Patroness of the institution which she supported with a liberal donation of sicca Rs 523-5-4 a year. This subscription was not withheld even when the Settlement was transferred to the British Government in 1845, but was continued up to June 1881.

Peter Hansen succeeded *Rechling* as the Governor of Serampore on 1st May, 1838. On 14th February, 1839, the Danish East India Company was abolished. His Majesty the King of Denmark began seriously to think of the desirability of transferring the Danish Settlements in India to the English. Before we proceed to record the actual transfer of the Settlements, it would be interesting to narrate the circumstances which led to the decline of the commerce of Serampore, hitherto the most lucrative of the Crown possessions in India; for it was the decline of the commerce of Serampore which led the King of Denmark to decide on their transfer.

The Danish Government used to receive a certain annual allowance from the British Government in India as a compensation for relinquishing the manufacture of opium at Patna. The allowance was not restored when the town of Serampore was restored, for the second time, to the Danes.²⁵

25. "Before the second capture of the town in 1808, a considerable sum had been paid annually by the British Government in India to the Danes, and also to the French, as a compensation for relinquishing the manufacture of opium at Patna. During the negotiations at the congress (of Vienna) Prince Talleyrand secured the

(2) On the occasion of the second capture of Serampore on the 28th of January 1808, the English seized not only "all the Danish vessels lying off the town or in the river, twelve in number, and of 4600 tons burden", but also "the valuable merchandise collected in the Ware-houses at Serampore".²⁶ The blow thus inflicted by the confiscation of its property and the extinction of its capital was one from which the Danish East India Company never recovered. The town was restored in 1815, but no compensation was given for the confiscation of its property and the subsequent motions of the Danish Authorities to the British Parliament for a suitable compensation were ineffectual.²⁷

(3) The Charter Act of 1813 abolished the monopoly of the English East India Company's trade and admitted British traders to the commerce of India. The British merchants, desirous of trading on their own account,

restoration of this allowance to the French,—and it is, at present, the chief support of their Settlement in India; but the representation of the King of Denmark did not succeed in regaining the opium annuity. The town of Serampore was thus led to depend on its own resources" (The Life and Times of Carey, Marshman and Ward). Bishop Heber gives a somewhat different account. He says: "The English East India Company were accustomed to furnish to the Danish Government of Serampore two hundred chests of opium yearly at the cost price, thereby admitting them to a share in the benefit of the important monopoly. This grant has been earnestly requested since (the restoration of the town) by Colonel Knaefling, but hitherto without success, and in consequence he complains that the revenues of the settlement do not meet its current expenses."

26. Life and Times of Carey, Marshman and Ward.

27. The Friend of India, 1845.

thus ceased to require the commercial facilities of a foreign settlement like Serampore into which British capital had previously flowed imparting a strong impulse to its commerce. Mrs Fry, who had long been resident in Serampore, has recorded in her Memoirs how some English merchants freighted a Danish Ship, the *Nathalia*, from Serampore for Suez in 1779 to evade the prohibition by the English East India Company to private trade with Suez. The well known Mr Stephens also severely denounced the evils of private traders making use of neutral bottoms in a pamphlet entitled the "Frauds of Neutrals". Private traders, who made use of the Serampore harbour, paid a certain amount to the Danish Authorities. The Danish commerce and revenue must, therefore, have suffered a loss when there was no further occasion for British traders to seek a foreign harbour.

(4) The exports from Serampore consisted chiefly of piece goods from India. Towards the end of the eighteenth century Manchester, helped by the protectionist principles of her own country, began to rival India in the markets of Europe and soon after "superseded the textile fabrics of the East, which had enjoyed a high reputation in Europe for eighteen centuries."²⁸

28. "The old trade rivalries between English and Indian manufacturers are now forgotten.

Between 1780 and 1790 the Court of Directors were thrown into alarm at the superiority of the Muslins manufactured by Manchester. About the same time the calico printers in England were taking alarm at the improvements in the printing of the Indian calicoes imported into England by the East India Company. They were petitioning Parliament to prevent the emigration of artists to India; to prohibit the exportation of plates, blocks and materials for the

(5) A shoal had been formed in the river in front of the town which destroyed the usefulness of its harbour.²⁰

(6) In 1830 the right to shelter debtors was given up by the Danes and this concession still further diminished the resources of Serampore.

(7) The Danes unwisely levied a Frontier duty on all articles of produce which passed the boundaries of Serampore. It necessitated the keeping up of two establishments, one at Ballarpore and another at Chntra. The expenses of these two chawkees, having in each a Daroga, a writer, peons and boatmen, must have been about Rs. 3000 a year, while the duty imposed was nominal and barely enough to cover the expenses of maintaining the establishments for its collection. The evils were palable. It stifled trade with interior and subjected it to delay and oppression by unscrupulous collectors. Even in 1833, when the foreign trade at Serampore had practically become extinct, the duty was not given up.

All the above causes contributed more or less to the decline of the commerce of the settlement. Between 1815 and 1845 only one vessel visited the port of Serampore and even that was subject to loss. In printing business and also to lay such additional duty upon goods printed in India, as would be sufficient to put the white piece-goods printed in England on an equal footing with Indian goods at foreign markets."—Early Records of British India (Wheeler).

29. "Ships of burden cannot come close up to the town on account of a shoal lower down but labour in the province is so cheap that the additional expense of carrying the goods by boats adds little to the prime cost." Hamilton's Hindoostan Vol. I. P. 64.

the year 1833, the establishment of the Royal Danish East India Company was reduced to a solitary servant, who ventilated the godowns about once a week.³⁰ On the 14th of February, 1839 the Company itself was abolished. Lord Ellenborough, who was the Governor-General of India from 1842-44, is said to have repeatedly stood in the verandah of the Government House opposite, with a spy glass, to see if any signs of life and motion could be discerned in it, just as astronomers point their telescope to the moon to ascertain whether it is inhabited; but after repeated and unsuccessful efforts, he bestowed on it the title of the City of the Dead.³¹

The decline of the revenues of the settlement corresponded with the decline of its commerce. Turning to the abstract of receipts on account of revenues for the year 1st May 1813 to 30th April 1814, we find that the total receipt was only Rs. 13,231.³²

Bishop Heber, who paid a return visit to Colonel Kraefling on 28th December 1823, records that the Government complained to him that the revenues of the settlement

30. The Samachar Darpan (10-7-33)

31. The Friend of India 24-5-49

32. Land revenue. Rs. 6050

Excise. „ 4,158

Variable imposts

(Sayer) „ 2821

Commission on

the sale of

houses etc. „ 202

„ 13,231 (Hamilton's Hindoostan Vol. I.

(P. 64

did not meet its current expenses and that it was owing to want of means that the Danish Government in Serampore was unable to relieve the suffering of its inhabitants during the inundation of 1823. Owing to the fall of revenues the same Governor was compelled to employ the natives in almost all branches of the administration in place of the more costly services of Europeans. In 1836 the number of garrison in the settlement had, for the same reason, to be reduced to twenty-five heads.

The decline of commerce as well as the revenue lessened the importance of the settlement as a possession worth having in the eyes of Denmark. The people pressed the Crown of Denmark, from time to time, to effect the transfer of the settlement which was a growing burden on the finances of the Home Government. As far back as 1818, we find statements appearing in the Calcutta Gazette about rumours of transfer of the Danish Settlements in Bengal to the English. These statements, contradictory though they were, still pointed to the fact that the Settlements had lost or were fast losing their lucrative character. ²²

33. "We have been informed that the Danish Government had determined upon giving its East India Possessions in exchange for the Island of Porto Rico, in the West Indies, and that British Ministers have adopted measures for obtaining possession of the Island on behalf of the Danish Government—Denmark having a claim to a considerable amount on account of subsidies granted to that country in the reign of King Frederick the Fourth"—Calcutta Gazette, August 6th, 1818.—A contradiction to the foregoing statement, however, appeared in the Calcutta Gazette of 13th August, 1818 which is as follows:—"The information contained in a paragraph in our last Gazette, respecting the transfer of the Danish

In 1826, Dr. Marshman proceeded to Denmark with the intention of obtaining a royal charter for the Serampore College. He was received into the private audience of the King, who, in the course of the interview, is reported to have said "that the question of transferring Serampore, which had now lost its commercial value, to the English Government had been repeatedly brought before him, but, having promised the missionaries his protection in 1801, he was averse to a measure which would deprive him of the power of fulfilling that engagement".³⁴ At last, however, the King had to yield to the necessity of the case. On the 30th September 1841, His Majesty the King of Denmark authorised

possessions in Bengal to the British Crown was communicated to us in a letter from Chinsurah. We suppose, however, that the only grounds for the report in question are to be found in a London Journal for February in which the probability of such a measure is said to be discussed. The settlement of Serampore must be of very little political consequence to the Crown of England, and above all, the exchange of that place and other unimportant Danish possessions in Bengal for Porto Rico, is in itself extremely improbable. Porto Rico is an island 120 miles in length by 40 in breadth, fertile, beautiful and well watered. According to Pinkerton, the chief trade is in sugar, ginger, cotton, hides, with some drugs, fruits and sweetmeats, and the northern part is said to contain mines of gold and silver. The Danish Government would, therefore, have an excellent bargain if the report to which we allude had any foundation in truth. But perhaps our Chinsurah Correspondent in giving us the information that Serampore was to be deprived of its immunities and exemptions only waggishly intended to excite an alarm among those whom necessity had compelled to take refuge within its limits."

Peter Hansen to negotiate with the English about the transfer of the Danish Settlements in India. The treaty for the transfer of Serampore and the other Danish possessions on the Continent of India to the British Government was not concluded till the 22nd of February, 1845. The first intelligence of the transfer appeared the following day in the "Star" of Calcutta and was repeated to a wider circle by the "Friend of India" in its issue of 27th February 1845. The editor of the latter paper observed with a quaint humour that the Danes obtained a fair price for their settlements which were sold for a consideration of Rs. 12,50,000 in all.³⁵ On the 4th October, 1845, there was great excitement among the natives of Serampore, who were led to expect from a reliable source that Messrs Harvey and Bayley, the English Commissioners appointed for the purpose, would arrive at Serampore to take possession of it.³⁶ On the ratification of the

35. "Whether a higher sum might not have been obtained if our humble suggestion had been adopted, and these possessions had been put up to public auction at Humburgh, and the Emperor of all the Russians and the Queen of Great Britain had been admitted to bid against each other, there is no longer any opportunity of determining. The transaction is so far advanced as to exclude further negotiation and nothing is wanting to complete it but the ratification of the respective Sovereigns. We cannot, however, expect that ratification to arrive in India before the close of the present year. We may, therefore, hope for one more opportunity of celebrating by a royal salute and dinner the anniversary of His Danish Majesty's birthday in September next, after which our old Scandinavian flag which has floated over this settlement for 89 years, will disappear."

36. "Information was received on the 3rd of the month the Commissioners would be here on the following morning, the 4th, by

Treaty of Purchase on the 6th October 1845, the appointed English Commissioners arrived in Serampore on the 11th of October, 1845, and on the same day the ceremony of transfer was quietly gone into with due deference to the feelings of the Danes.³⁷ Thus ended the glory of Serampore and with it the dream of the Danes of founding an Eastern Empire in India. The short space

steamer, to receive possession, and that a Company of sepoy's would cross over from Barrackpore to hoist the English colours.

The native portion of the Community was on the tip-toe of expectation from an early hour, and groups were formed to witness the transfer of land and people from one Crown to another, But as the day advanced no steamer appeared in sight and the eye could discover no preparation for embarkation at Barrackpore. At length it began to be whispered through the town that some misunderstanding had arisen between the authorities of the two nations, and that about mid day troops were to come over from Barrackpore and capture and sack the settlement. Every-one, therefore, who had anything to lose retired to his house and secured the treasures—some are even said to have begun to bury them—and barricaded the doors in momentary expectation of the descent of the enemy. But evening came on without any appearance of British troops, and the next day it transpired that the transfer had been postponed for another week."

—*The Friend of India* (9. 10. 45)

37. "The mutual exchange of the ratified treaties for the transfer of Serampore from the Danes to the English Crown having taken place in Calcutta, the Commissioners appointed by the British Government Messrs J. J. Harvey and H. V. Bayley, came up to the town in a steamer last Saturday morning and received possession of the settlement from the Danish Authorities and hoisted the English colours. The transaction was completed without noise or parade. No minute guns were fired to denote the extinction of the Danish power in India and no royal salutes to announce the accretion of territory to the Dominions of Queen Victoria. In honour of the

of time which, on the one hand, witnessed the rise and fall of the Crown of Denmark in India, on the other hand, built the mighty fabric of the British Empire on a foundation extended from Cape Comorin to the loftiest Himalayas.

occasion, however, the British ensign was hoisted at Barrackpore. The transfer was made with a delicate consideration for the feelings of those whom it was likely to affect, which reflects no little credit on the judgment of the Commissioners."

—*The Friend of India* (16. 10. 45)

The Danish Chiefs and Governors of Serampore

The following is a complete list of the Danish Chiefs and Governors of Serampore. Colonel Crawford mentions Lindeman as the last Governor of Serampore. He is evidently wrong. The Treaty for the transfer of the Danish settlements, done at Calcutta on the 22nd day of February, 1845, distinctly refers to Peter Hansen as Governor. The Certificate of Exchange, dated 6th October, 1845, was signed by L. Lindhard on the part of the King of Denmark. It is probable that in the not unusual way in which names undergo changes, Lindhard became changed into Crawford's Lindeman. The English actually received possession of the town on the 11th October, 1845.

J. S. Soetman	8. 10. 1755 to 10. 1. 1758
B. L. Ziegenbalg	10. 1. 1758 to 2. 10. 1760
T. Windelkide	2, 10. 1760 to 14. 8. 1762
DeMarches	14. 8. 1762 to 3. 10. 1765
M. W. Tyrholm	3. 10. 1765 to 20. 1. 1767
M. F. Thede	22. 1. 1767 to 1. 2. 1768
Charles Cazenove	1. 2. 1768 to 11. 2. 1770
James Brown	13. 2. 1770 to 29. 8. 1770
H. F. Hinckel	29. 8. 1770 to 11. 9. 1770
J. L. Fix	14. 9. 1770 to 4. 9. 1772

THE DANISH CHIEFS AND GOVERNORS OF 63 SERAMPORE

Ole Bie	4. 9. 1772 to 28. 12. 1772
J. L. Fix	28. 12. 1772 to 27. 8. 1773
Andreas Hiernoc	27. 8. 1773 to 26. 9. 1776
Ole Bie	26. 9. 1776 to 30. 1. 1785
F. L. Febre	30. 1. 1785 to 28. 7. 1788
Ole Bie	28. 7. 1788 to 7. 4. 1797
Peter Hermansch	7. 4. 1797 to 18. 1. 1799
Jacob Kraefsting	18. 1. 1799 to 1. 6. 1799
Ole Bie	1. 6. 1799 to 18. 5. 1805
Jacob Kraefsting	18. 5. 1805 to 7. 10. 1828
J. S. Hohlenbrig	7. 10. 1828 to 11. 5. 1833
J. C. Bocck	12. 5. 1833 to 1. 11. 1835
J. Rechling	1. 11. 1835 to 1. 5. 1838
Peter Hansen	1. 5. 1838 to 10. 10. 1845

ADMINISTRATION

Transfer to Crown : In 1777, the colonies of the Danish East India Company were transferred to the Crown of Denmark, after a valuation commission, appointed for the purpose, had fixed up their value. But it was not until the 7th of November 1778 that the actual transfer of administration of the Company's possessions took place. On that day the settlement of Serampore was brought under the direct administration of the Crown and Ole Bie, the Chief of the Settlement became the Crown Regent with the designation of Governor. Administration and commercial business, which had hitherto remained in one and the same hand, now became separated. The Governor of Serampore became the political head of the other Danish settlements in Bengal. The administration of the settlement of Serampore became vested in a Council of three of which the Governor was the President. The second member in the council was to be called the Chief of the troops and Master of Ordnance. The third member was to be called the Mayor of the town who was also to be a Judge and a Magistrate and the Head of the Department of the Police. The council was to be assisted by a Secretary. Two customs officers were appointed to look into the conduct of the commerce.

The Army : The Danes were prohibited from fortifying their settlement of Serampore or keeping a strong garrison in it. On the eighth of October 1755, the day

when they founded their colony in Serampore, the Danes placed a small battery on the banks of the river, before the site selected for the factory. It was never used except for saluting purposes. The same day a few soldiers were taken into service besides 6 lance-bearers. When Sirajuddowla with his vast army was moving towards Calcutta to punish the English and storm the Fort William, he desired the Danes to assist him with men and money, but the Danish Governor of Serampore humbly replied that he had neither foot, nor horse, nor artillery and that the settlement had little business. In 1760, the Danes who were apprehensive of the Mahratta inroads, applied to the English for a loan of four cannon and some ammunition, but the application was rejected. In 1778, on the transfer of the administration of the settlement from the hands of the Company to those of the king of Denmark the complement of soldiers was increased to fifty and two military officers were appointed, who were made directly accountable to the second member in the Council. There is nothing on record to show that there was any further increase in the number of regulars. On the rupture of political relations between the English and the Danes in Europe, Serampore was twice besieged by the English soldiers and on each occasion the settlement made an unconditional surrender without the least blood-shed. The army was effective only in assisting the Police to preserve order in the town. Bishop Heber, however, who visited Serampore, admired the extremely clean and martial appearance of the Danish soldiers in their red Danish uniform. The Commander of the little Danish garrison used to receive

his daily report about his charge not in English or Danish but in Portuguese which continued to be the *Lingua Franca* of the people of India and her foreign settlers long after the Portuguese power had set in India.

The Police : From the beginning the Danes felt the need of keeping a strong police force to preserve peace and order in the town. Numerous bands of robbers and river pirates infested the lower provinces of Bengal and committed depredations on the people in all parts of the Hooghly District. Even so late as 1852 the District Magistrate of Hooghly complained of the existence of 65 gangs of robbers within a range of 60 miles from Calcutta. Soetman, the first Danish Chief of Serampore, was obliged to send for help from Tranquebar against pirates whom he found too strong to successfully resist with the small force of the police and regulars at his disposal. On the transfer of the Company's Settlements to the Crown in 1778, thirty new appointments were made in the Police and the number of regular soldiers was increased to 50. The Chief officer of the Police became accountable to the third member of the Council. With this addition to the Police and the Army, the settlement became secure from the depredations of outlaws. Further in 1781, the Danes built a thick wall round their lodge which not only secured their valuable warehouses from any attempt at plunder but also afforded shelter to the people in times of exigency. The administration of Serampore, as respects the police, observes Bishop Heber, who visited Serampore in 1823, "is extremely good, and does much credit to Colonel Kraefting and his Danish Magistrates." During the late inundation

he was called on for more vigorous measures than usual, since a numerous band of dacoits or river-pirates, trusting to the general confusion and apparently defenceless state of the place, attacked his little kingdom and began to burn and pillage with all the horrors which attend such inroads in this country. The Colonel took the field at the head of his dozen sepoy, his silver-sticks, police-men and sundry volunteers to the amount of perhaps 30, killed some of the ruffians and took several prisoners whom he hanged next morning."

Some daring dacoities were committed in Serampore soon after the transfer of the town to the English. While admitting that such dacoities were rare under the Danish rule the "Friend of India" in its issue of March 1, 1849 went on to contrast the "centralized power of the Danish Magistrate with the total absence of all power in his English successor. When any violation of the public peace had been committed in the olden time, the perpetrators, it related, which was generally the case, were brought to immediate trial, and flogged, and set to work in the roads, while the offence was yet fresh in the recollection of the town. The rapidity, the certainty and the vigour of punishment produced its natural effect on the minds of the ill-disposed."

Law and Justice : The Danes introduced their own laws for the trial of criminal offenders expeditiously and effectively. In the exercise of their powers they generally displayed a bold independence which sometimes brought their own Government into unfriendly relations with their powerful English neighbours. In 1763 some English soldiers, who disturbed the peace of the town,

were placed under arrest and sentenced to flogging by the trying Danish Magistrate who was an Indian. The Danish Chief steadily refused to hand over the Magistrate as was demanded by the English but appeased them by an apology.

Civil suits as between the Hindus were tried according to the Hindu law and those between the Mahomedans according to the Mahomedan law. The Danish judges, who originally little knew what the law on the subject was, had to rely on the law-officers of the Court who explained the law to them. The members of the Danish Civil Service were, however, as a body, not inferior in intelligence to their brother officers elsewhere and it was not long before they could acquire sufficient legal knowledge to do their duties satisfactorily without much reliance on the law-officers of the Court. The law bearing on important questions such as inheritance, will, gift, sale, mortgage etc, were soon systematized and codified and Mr. Elberling of the Danish Civil Service wrote a valuable treatise on the civil law which was published from the Serampore press in 1843.

In a Bengali book entitled “বাপীয় কল ও ভারতবর্ষীয় রেলওয়ে” which was published from Serampore in 1779, the author Babu Kalidas Moitra records a curious instance of travesty of justice in a Danish Court, and insinuates that at least some of the judges were not above corruption. It may be definitely stated that the Danish judges of the later period were characterized by a spirit of noble independence and love of justice. Samachar Durpan, which was started from Serampore in 1818, pays a glowing tribute to the Danish judges and.

states how their conduct was above all suspicion of corruption and how they administered justice in an even-handed manner. Of Hohlenbrig the same paper states that "in his judicial and magisterial duties he invariably manifested the most impartial justice. The personal fatigue to which he submitted in sifting the truth was inexcusable, for the imperfect organization of his court left far too much of the manual labour of recording proceedings in his own hands, and he was scrupulous perhaps to a fault".

In 1778 the Danish East India Company's possessions in India were transferred to the Crown of Denmark and a great administrative reform was introduced. Under it the administration of the settlement of Serampore became vested in a Council of three of which the Chief, hence forward designated as the Governor, was to be the President. One of his colleagues in the Council was also to function as the Judge and Magistrate. He became the supreme appellate authority to hear cases of appeal against the decision of the lower courts and his position in the Council gave him a dignity second only to that of the Governor or the Crown-Regent. Vacancies in the Governor's post were oftener filled by the Judge-Magistrate than by the 2nd Member of the Council.

Plaints on civil suits were required to be written on a stamped paper. The value of stamp in case of suits under Rs. 4 was anna one only, while for sums of Rs. 4 and above stamp fees were proportionately high. The legal expenses were cheap, which, it is probable, led to the encouragement of litigation. The average of three years from 1842 to 1844 showed that plaints over 1500

were annually filed in Danish court by a population numbering a little over 10,000.

Article 4 of the Treaty of Transfer provided that all suits commenced and pending in the Danish court at the time the treaty came into force, should be carried on and decided by the same law, as far as altered circumstances would allow, and that the same principle would apply to all cases appealed in due time according to the rules for appeal then in force, but lying undetermined by competent authority.

In 1803 the old court house was pulled down and on the same site a new building was erected at a cost of Rs 7,900. Adjoining the court house was the Danish Jail which was remodelled in 1833.

The Danish Revenue

Items of income of the Danish Government of Serampore consisted of the land revenue, the excise revenue, the marriage taxes, the foreign annuity, the taxes on private traders, the sale of stamps, the Frontier duty, the Bazar duty, besides commission on sale of houses, fines etc.

Land Revenue : The total land revenue derived by the Danish Government from the lands acquired by them in Akna and Pearapore was Rs. 9,088 a year. The *Kists* fixed were the 31st of January and 31st of July. The rents paid by the Danish Government were :

To Zaminders	...	Rs. 1,708
To lakhirajadars	...	Rs. 651
For site of godown	...	Rs. 19
For site of bazar	...	Rs. 254
Total		Rs. 2,632
		[17 V. 13-11-45]

Like the Dutch at Chinsurah, the Danes issued to their tenants Pattahs and renewal of Pattahs on payment of fixed sums.

Excise Revenue : The Danish excise revenue yielded an annual income of Rs. 7,161. It was farmed out on the following yearly jamas :

Coutry Spirits	...	Rs 4,330
European Liquor	...	Rs 50
Tadi	...	Rs 210
Ganja	...	Rs 201
Opium	...	Rs 1,025
Betelnut and tobacco	...	Rs 1,345

Spirits had to be sold only at licensed shops. The opium farmer could buy opium wherever he liked and sell it at his own price.

Bazar Duty : It corresponded with the sayer imposts. The Danes, following the custom, which formerly prevailed in all the foreign settlements of the other European nations in Bengal, levied a tax on all articles of food and clothing as well as articles of general use and consumption, as noticed below :

Rice	Cloth	Shop-keepers, bankers or money changers, box-wallas were also subject to this Municipal impost. Returns from this tax yielded an annual income of Rs. 2,525.
Ghee	Oil	
Sugar	Bamboos	
Jagery	Chunam	
Salt	Fireworks	
Wood	Fruits	
Fish	Straw	
Vegetables	Meat	

Marriage Fee : A fee was imposed on all marriages except those of Brahmins and Kayasthas and it yielded an annual income of Rs 133.

Foreign Annuity : The Danes used to receive annually

from the British Government in India a handsome consideration as compensation for relinquishing the manufacture of opium. This allowance was stopped by the English after the second capture of Serampore in 1808.

Frontier Duty : It was an unwise levy. It stifled trade with the interior and subjected it to delay and oppression by unscrupulous collectors. The duty was nominal and the amount derived from it barely covered the expenses of the establishments necessary for its collection. It was abolished sometime after 1833.

Tax on private traders : The Danish East India Company did not enjoy a monopoly of trading rights as did the English East India Company until the charter Act of 1813 destroyed the latter's rights of monopoly. Other European nations, especially when they were at war with each other, made use of Danish harbour at Serampore and goods consigned in Danish vessels were safe from molestation. From them as well as those private traders who made use of the Danish harbour, the Danish Government realised a tax which was never given up. Article 5 of the Treaty of transfer provided "that the trade carried on or to be carried on by the subjects of his Danish Majesty in the parts of the East Indies should not be more restricted than it would have been in case his Danish Majesty had continued to possess the settlements now transferred."

Sale of Stamps : The plaint on suits was required to be written on a stamped paper. In the case of suit under Rs 4/- the stamp fee was one anna only, while for sums of Rs 4 and above stamp fees were higher in proportion.

The Serampore Mission

The golden days of Serampore under the Danes were also the days in which the fame of the settlement spread throughout the Christian world as the seat of the Serampore Mission—the first organized Christian Mission in India. It would be beyond the scope of the present book to give a detailed account of the Serampore Mission. A brief outline of its work, its origin and aim, together with its connection with Danish Government will be given in this Chapter.

The Baptist Missionary Society was formed in October, 1792, at Keterring, Northamptonshire, with Mr. Andrew Fuller as its Secretary. The object of the Society was 'to promote Christianity by all proper means'.* The Society, at first, thought of sending its Mission to Africa, but, afterwards, it changed its

*The object of the B. M. S. and of the the Serampore Mission was avowedly a religious object. It does not seem, however, that in pursuing their work of evangelization, they were always prompted by a singleness of motive. In the controversy in which they engaged with their opponents both in and outside of Parliament, they maintained that for political reasons Christianity should be introduced in India. "Nothing will so effectually establish the British Dominion in India," they wrote, "as the introduction, of Christianity provided it be merely by persuasion; and nothing is more safe, and under a divine blessing, more easy. Again, should Britain be friendly to this object, it may be lengthening of her tranquillity". The student of political history does not require to be told that oneness of religion does not constitute unity in polity. Nor is the evangelization of India as a whole is a task feasible for the Church of Christ.

mind. "It is clear," said Fuller, "that there is a rich mine of gold in India but it is as deep as the centre of the earth. Who will venture to explore it?" "I will go down," rejoined Mr. Carey, "if you hold the ropes." Mr Carey, who had a principal share in the organization of the society and had evinced a great zeal in the cause of mission in a work entitled, "An Enquiry into the Obligations of Chistians to use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens" was taken at his word. Mr. Thomas, who had previously made two voyages to Bengal as a ship's surgeon, was chosen as his colleague. The next consideration for the Society was how to send them. By an act of Parliament every European was prohibited from going to India, without a license from the East India Company on pain of fine and imprisonment. Moreover, the public authorities, both in India and England, were hostile to the idea of a Christian Mission to India, which, they thought, was fraught with possibilities of disastrous consequences to the Indian empire*. The Society, therefore, sent out their first missionary in a Danish vessel, called the Princess Maria." "Conscious," wrote the Committee, in justification of their act, "that we had no design of our missionaries interfering in the affairs either of Government or trade or that they should engage in any service or secular employment, unless it were for their own individual support, we did not consider ourselves as violating the spirit of the law which forbids Europeans to go to India without leave of the

* One of the Directors was reported to have said that he would rather see a band of Devils in India than a band of missionaries—
Life & Times of Carey Marshman and Ward.

Company ; that law having for its object the prevention of interlopers in trade."

The missionaries arrived in Calcutta in November, 1793. For sometime the missionaries were in trying circumstances, owing, first, to the limited help from home and secondly, to the prodigality of Mr. Thomas. Before long, however, their prospects brightened. Mr. George Udney, who was one of the few friends whom Thomas had gained during his previous residence in Bengal, offered to them the superintendence of two indigo factories in Malda. "As this proposal not only opened to them the prospect of an ample supply of their pecuniary wants, but presented them with an extensive field of usefulness affording each of them influence over upwards of a thousand people, and furnishing suitable employment for any of them who might lose caste for the sake of the gospel, they both accepted it without hesitation."

On the 13th of October, 1799 a fresh band of missionaries arrived in Calcutta in an American vessel called the "Criterion." These were William Ward, Joshua Marshman, Mr Brunsdon and Mr Grant. The missionaries, who had been provided with a letter of introduction to the Danish Governor of Serampore, by the Danish Consulate in London, proceeded in two boats to Serampore. Colonel Bie, the Governor of the town, gave them to understand that he would protect to the last the men who had been committed to his care by the Danish Consul in London."

Meanwhile the arrival of the Baptist missionaries was announced in some of the Calcutta papers as the arrival of Papist Missionaries, owing either to a

misprint or to the ignorance of the existence of such a denomination as the Baptist. "When Lord Wellesley's eye caught the announcement that four Papist Missionaries arrived in a foreign vessel, and had proceeded direct to the foreign settlement of Serampore without so much as landing in Calcutta, he concluded that their mission was connected with the machinations of the French Government. The commander of the vessel in which they had arrived was, therefore, summoned to the Police and ordered to enter without delay into an engagement to take them back on pain of not being allowed to discharge his cargo. In this dilemma, the missionaries applied to the Reverend David Brown, who enjoyed the confidence of the Governor-General, and who explained the error to his Lordship, and assured him that Dr. Marshman and Mr. Ward and their two colleagues were not French spies but Dissembling Missionaries; and the embargo on the vessel was immediately removed". As all endeavours, however, of the missionaries to obtain permission from the Government to settle in the interior were ineffectual, Carey decided to leave Malda and join his brethren in Serampore. He thus stated the reasons for his decision: "At Serampore we may settle as Missionaries, which is not allowed here; and the great ends of the Mission, particularly the printing of the Scriptures, seem much more likely to be answered in that situation than in this. There also brother Ward can have the inspection of the press, whereas here we should be deprived of his important assistance. In that part of the country the inhabitants are far more numerous than

in this ; and other Missionaries may there be permitted to join us, which here it seems they will not".

On the 10th of January, 1800 Carey came over to Serampore with the press which Mr. Udney had presented. In the same year the Mission was established and in recollection of the zealous support which the Missionaries had received from the Governor of the settlement in instituting the Mission there, they presented him on the 25th of April, 1800 with the following address :

To

The Honourable Colonel Bie.

Sir,

Having set apart this day in our family to return thanks to God for the establishment of our Missionary Settlement in this country, we could not but recollect the many gracious and important favours which we have received at your hands. We have prayed, and shall not cease to pray, that our Heavenly Father may pour His most sacred Benediction upon you, and long make you a blessing to the world. We hope our conduct will always show that our gratitude is sincere and that we aim at being truly the disciples of Him who exhibited a perfect pattern of universal obedience.

Accept, Sir, our fervent and united acknowledgments, in which we know our society in England would be very happy to concur.

We are,

Sir,

Your most affectionate and obedient servants,

William Carey,

William Ward,

John Fountain,

D. Brunson,

J. Marshman.

In the same year Col. Bic transmitted to the court of Copenhagen an account of the establishment of the missionaries in Serampore, whereon his Danish Majesty King Frederick VI was pleased to take the infant mission under his special protection and directed the public functionaries in Serampore to afford the missionaries every support. It seemed a dispensation of Providence that the same nation which had enjoyed the distinction of fostering Chirstian Misson in the East, should stand out as the saviour of the Serampore Mission amidst the hostilities of its own Government. It is very doubtful whether without such protection the Serampore Mission could have stood its ground. It is true that Lord Wellesley's Government did not give the Serampore Missionaries any more trouble. In 1801, when Serampore was captured by the English in consequence of the rupture of political relations between England and Denmark, the English Commissioner encouraged the missionaries to continue their work as before. But harassment and persecution by successive Governments was still in store for them. Alarmed by the mutiny of Velore the Government of Sir George Barlow forbade all itinerant preaching, and, in 1806, when Messrs Chatter and Robinson arrived in Calcutta without a license, the same Government passed an order in Council, directing the missionaries to return to Europe and refusing Captain Wickes a clearance until he took them back with him. A representation from the missionaries followed, pointing out that Messrs Chatter and Robinson were then at Serampore and had joined the Mission under their direction and the protection of the King of

Denmark. "This representation produced an enquiry :— Whether the missionaries were actually under the protection of the Danish Government, or whether they only lived at Serampore from choice, as being a convenient situation ?" To the enquiry an answer was returned by the then Danish Governor, stating how the Court of Copenhagen had taken the Serampore Mission under its special care, how the Court had directed the Danish authorities in Serampore to afford the Serampore Mission every support, and how in virtue of that high authority he had taken Messrs Chatter and Robinson under the protection of his Danish Majesty."

The next year the issue of a tract from the Serampore Mission in which the religion of Islam was abused, roused the opposition of the Government of Lord Minto, which demanded the surrender of the missionaries and of the Mission Press. Colonel Kraefting steadily refused to comply with the demand of the British Government. An apology from the missionaries and the surrender of the copies of the tract objected to appeased the British Government. In 1812, the arrival, without license, as usual, of fresh missionaries again roused the same Government to opposition, which was not withdrawn, until some of the missionaries were expelled. But the time was at hand when the authorities both in India and in England were to be reconciled to the missionary idea and the attempt at promoting Christianity by persuasion was to be legalised. We allude to the Charter Act of 1813. The Bill, as originally presented to the House, contained no missionary clause. The hearing of the Bill, which aimed a

blow at the monopoly of the East India Company's trade and as such was unacceptable to the constituents of that body, had to be put off for the placing of certain evidence before the House. This postponement gave an opportunity to the friends of mission of starting a vigorous movement into which Mr Wilberforce threw his whole soul with as much ardour and animation as he had exhibited on the question of the slave trade. Mr Fuller was not idle. He urged his own party and interviewed influential members of the House to do their best in favour of mission. Simultaneously with these Lord Castlereagh's declaration in the House to leave the missionary question in the hands of the Court of Directors, had the result of uniting all the friends of mission in a determination to petition the British Parliament without delay. From Churchmen, Methodists, Dissenters from every party that was alive to the question of religion, poured forth such a flood of petitions as was scarcely seen before. "For eight or ten weeks the legislature was overwhelmed with them, and Lord Castlereagh is said to have remarked that he feared that they should have to throw the poor bishop overboard like another Jonah, to appease the storm." When the Bill with the Missionary clause added to it, was introduced into the house, the opposition endeavoured to exclude the Missionary clause, but without effect. Public opinion in favour of Mission had been created and the Bill was passed. Thus after a struggle for existence continued for thirteen years against the opposition of its own government, the Serampore Mission ceased to require the protecting care of the Danish.

Governors but for whom it might have perished in its cradle.

The early years of the Serampore Mission had troubles beside those arising out of the opposition of the British Government. Grant died on the 31st of October, 1799 and Brunsdon died on the 3rd of July, 1801. Mr Thomas, who literally went mad out of joy for the conversion to Christianity of the first Hindu (Krishna Pal) died on the 13th of October of the same year. In 1812, a fire broke out in the Mission premises, destroying quires of paper, several founts of oriental types, manuscript translations of the Bible in several oriental languages, "copy for about 30 pages of Carey's Bengali dictionary, the whole copy of a Telinga grammar, part of the copy of the grammar of Punjabi or Sikh language and all the material which Carey had been long collecting for a dictionary of all the languages derived from the Sanskrit." The loss as respects money was made good by contributions from the Christian world at large. By incessant work, both night and day, the whole loss in oriental types was made good in six months, while the Bible translations and grammars were re-written with better advantage.

Following the death of the members referred to, the work of the Serampore Mission was carried on principally by Messrs Carey, Marshman and Ward, until Marshman, the last survivor of the Serampore trio, died in 1837. It was the disinterested labour of these three men which contributed largely to the success of the Mission. Early, in 1825, they entered into a form of Agreement, laying down the principles on which the

Mission should be conducted and emphasising on the part of the brotherhood, the need of living for the Mission alone, and cultivating a holy indifference towards every temporal indulgence, and bearing hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ. It is due to the missionaries to state that they were true to their creed. A boarding school established by Mr Marshman yielded a net income of a thousand pounds a year. The appointment of Carey first, as teacher, and then as the professor of the Sanskrit, Bengali and Marhatta languages in Lord Wellesley's College of Fort William, brought in an income of Rs 500 per month, which was afterwards increased to Rupees one thousand. While the proceeds, though not fixed, of a printing press superintended by Mr Ward were hardly less lucrative. But out of their splendid incomes Carey, Marshman and Ward took £ 40, £ 34 and £ 20 a year respectively, devoting the rest to the cause of the Mission. It was in this way that they not only made the Mission entirely self supporting, but also paid back to the Society at home the amount of money which it had advanced to the Serampore Mission. It is regrettable that soon after a quarrel arose between the Serampore Mission and the parent body respecting the ownership of the Mission premises and the missionaries, thereupon, declared themselves independent. This was in the year 1827. The step taken by the missionaries, apart from its justice or legitimacy, was impolitic and eventually proved fatal to the Mission itself, the cause of which they had so much at heart. In 1830, the collapse of the firms in which the funds of the Mission had been deposited left the Mission in a debt

of £ 3,000. The Missionaries issued an appeal to all Christians for a few hundred pounds per annum but in vain ; for the feelings of the former friends of the Serampore Mission had been estranged because of its separation from the parent body. Mr Mack was sent to England to recruit the finances. When he came back it was to sound the death knell of the Serampore Mission, for the transfer of the Mission into the hands of the Baptist Missionary Society in England had been decided upon by the friends of both parties in England. Mr Marshman was, however, spared the pangs of the announcement for it was just twenty four hours before Mack's arrival that his spirit had passed away.

The methods adopted by the Serampore Missionaries for promoting Christianity were principally three ; (1) Translating the Scriptures in the languages of the East, (2) The establishment of vernacular schools, (3) Preaching of Christianity.

The Translation of the Bible : The first thing insisted upon by the missionaries as essential to the evangelization of India was the translation of the Bible into the languages and dialects of the East. Their knowledge of the Hebrew and Greek originals, possession of one of the best libraries of critical works on the Holy Scriptures, their previous habits of translation and their access to the learned pundits of the College of Fort William of which Dr Carey was a professor, appeared to them as the most favourable circumstances for undertaking the translation. The translation of the Bible was, however, a task to which Carey set himself more than any other. From 1801, when Carey's Bengali New

Testament was published, to 1832, there appeared a series of translations of the Bible in forty different languages and dialects. "The labour and expense which they must have cost, it is not easy to calculate, and it is painful to think that so much labour and expense should have been thrown away nearly in vain. How Dr Carey could have brought himself to consider it possible for one man to execute or superintend the translation of the Scriptures into so many languages is very strange ; and it is stranger still how the friends of missions including many who might have been supposed qualified to form a correct opinion on the subject, should have allowed themselves to believe such a thing practicable and should have shown their belief of this by the deep interest which they took in it and the liberal contributions which they made for carrying it into effect. To execute a translation of the Holy Scriptures into a single language, though it shall be one's own mother tongue, is no slender task. It is work enough for even the most learned and skilful man, and will require the devotion to it of days, and months and years; and after having done his utmost, there will still remain ample room for improvement by future critics. Had Dr Carey produced even one good translation in Bengali, Sanskrit or Hindusthani, he would render a greater service to the cause of missions than he has done by all his versions put together !"

Specimens of Carey's Sanskrit and Bengali translations of the Bible are given for comparison with the authorized version of the Bible :

The people that sat in darkness saw great light ; and

to them which sat in the region and shadow of death, light is sprung up—Mathew IV. 16.

অন্ধকারে পুণঃবিশেষে লোক মহালোকমধ্যস্থত্বোদেশে ছায়ায়াকো-
পবিশতঃ প্রতি আলোক উদ্বেষি ।

যে লোক অন্ধকারে বসিয়াছিল তাহারা মহা আলো দেখিতে
পাইয়াছে বাহারা দূরত্ব দেশ ও ছায়ায় বসিল তাহাদের নিবৃট আলো
প্রদর্শিত হইয়াছে ।

Allied to the translation of the Scriptures was the publication and distribution of tracts and pamphlets as means for the spreading of Christianity. The publications of the latter were, however, often taken exception to not only by the Hindus and Mahomedans as derogatory to the religions they professed but also by the British Government though from a different point of view. We have already stated how the publication of such a tract led the British Government to demand the suppression of the press and the surrender of the missionaries. In their Despatch, dated 7th September, 1903, the Court of Directors approved the action of the G. of I. in interrupting the circulation of such publications as they were obviously calculated to create disaffection among their Indian subjects. The publication of such tracts furnished a weapon in the hands of the opposition when they endeavoured, though in vain, to fight out the missionary clause from the India Act of 1813.

The Preaching of Christianity among the natives of India was not looked upon with a favourable eye either by the East India Company or the Court of Directors. The attitude of their Gov^{ts} rals

India was not one of incessant opposition to the missionary enterprise. The Serampore Missionaries, therefore sometimes with Danish passports and sometimes without them, according to the need of the times, made extensive tours over the different parts of Bengal for evangelizing the natives. It was in 1810 that permission of Government was obtained for forming a station at Agra. As the means of the Serampore missionaries increased and the surrounding atmosphere became more and more favourable to the growth of mission, the stations multiplied until the Serampore Mission became the central directing authority of sixteen missions in the different parts of the Eastern and Northern India.

Afraid, however, that the preaching of Christianity among the Indian subjects might lead to serious consequences, the British Government would now and then restrict the missionary activities within the limits of Serampore. It was Sir George Barlow's Government which in 1806 forbade all itinerant preaching.

The establishment of Vernacular Schools—The missionaries thought that to attempt to convert the natives without educating them was to grasp at the end, while neglecting the means. With this idea they opened a school wherever a missionary station was established. In these schools they endeavoured to 'instil Divine truth into the minds of their tender pupils as fast as their understanding ripened'. Boys were taught through their vernacular which was considered as a better medium than English. By the year 1818 no fewer than 126 native schools flourished in and about Serampore with a total number of about 10,000 boys.

The Serampore College was founded by the missionaries in 1818. It was the outcome of the following circumstances. The multiplication of vernacular schools kept up a continuous demand for teachers. There was the necessity of a theological institution for the training of native converts, Eurasians and sons of missionaries. Signs were visible of a universal inclination among the people to learn English—an inclination which the missionaries considered a favourable circumstance for the evangelization of India. Accordingly the College, as the prospectus stated, was to have a normal as well as a theological department and was to 'provide for the instruction of Asiatic, Christian and other youth in Eastern Literature and Western Science'. Greater emphasis was laid on the acquirement of Sanskrit and Arabic while only a select number of students was to acquire a complete knowledge of the English language so as "to enable them to dive into the deepest recesses of European Science and enrich their own language with its choicest treasures". The College, which was the outcome of a missionary idea, was pre-eminently to be a Divinity College and required that the native Christian students should be trained both in oriental and occidental systems of theology to be efficient missionaries to the natives of India, for, as the prospectus stated, "if ever the Gospel stands in India, it must be by the native opposed to the native demonstrating its excellence above all other systems".

The Danish authorities in Serampore as well as the king of Denmark took active interest in the Serampore College. Major Wickedie, the Danish

Colleague, "planned the noble Ionic building which was then, and is still, the finest edifice of the kind in British India". The Governor of Serampore accepted a place in the College Council, while the king of Denmark wrote letters, signed with his own hand, to the three Serampore missionaries, and sent each of them a gold medal in token of his approbation. He also made over to them a large house and ground, the rent of which was to be perpetually applied to the support of the College and empowered the College Council to have a free hand in the internal management of its affairs independent of all control of the local authorities. Finally in 1827 the king was pleased to grant a Royal Charter to the Serampore College, empowering it to confer degrees, like the Universities of Kiel and Copenhagen, with the reservation that the degree conferred by the Serampore College should not carry the rank in the state implied in Danish degrees without the express sanction of the Crown. It was thus made the earliest degree-conferring College in Asia. When, in 1845, the Danish Settlements in India were transferred to the East India Company, Article VI of the Treaty of Transfer expressly provided that the Serampore College "shall retain the rights and immunities granted to it by the Royal Charter of 1827."

The Serampore missionaries did not live long enough to organize the Serampore College on the lines of a Christian University and they passed away before they could realize the ideal.

The literary side of the Serampore Mission deserves a little notice. The idea of translating the Bible into the vernacular languages of the East led Dr. Carey, on whom

the work of translation chiefly devolved, to acquire the languages himself. "When he commenced his career of oriental study, the facilities for it, which have since accumulated, were wholly wanting; the student was destitute of nearly all elementary aid. With the exception of Sanskrit few of the languages of India had ever been reduced to their elements by native and original writers. Grammars and dictionaries were alike unknown. The early students of these languages had therefore, as they gathered words and phrases, to analyse and investigate the principles of their construction, and to frame, as they proceeded, grammars and dictionaries for themselves. The talents of Dr. Carey were eminently adapted for such an undertaking, and to meet the necessities of himself and others he engaged at various periods in the compilation of original and valuable elementary works."

Ram Camal Sen than whom, says Professor Wilson, (Bowden Professor of Sanskrit in the University of Oxford) no one was better qualified to appreciate accurately the share taken by Dr. Carey in the improvement of the language and literature of his country, thus speaks of the services rendered by Dr. Carey to the Bengali language: "I must acknowledge.....that whatever has been done towards the revival of the Bengali language, the improvement, and in fact, the establishment of it as a language, must be attributed to that excellent man Dr. Carey and his colleagues, by whose liberality and great exertion many works have been carried through the press, and the general tone of the language of the province has been so greatly raised."

Magazine and Newspaper : The credit of bringing out the first newspaper ever printed in any oriental language is due to the Serampore missionaries. At a time when the press was shackled by the Company's Government, they projected the publication of a monthly magazine in which political discussion was to be avoided. Accordingly in April 1818, the first number of *Dig Darsan* made its appearance. It embraced a variety of topics which were treated both in English and Bengali.* The immediate success of the monthly led to the issue of the weekly *Samachar Durpan* of which the first number appeared on the 23rd of May, 1818. The following couplet in Sanskrit formed the motto of the paper :

দর্পণে মুখসৌন্দর্য্যগিব কাৰ্য্য-বিচক্ষণাঃ ।

বৃন্তাস্তনিহ জনক সমাচারস্ত দর্পণে ॥

Its scope, indicated in the words of the Editor himself, was as follows :

“এই সমাচার দর্পণে কেহ কেবল রাজকীয় সমাচার জানিতে চাহেন, কেহ প্রচীন ইতিহাস, কেহ চোর ডাকাতির সমাচার, কেহ যুদ্ধাদির বিবরণ, কেহ জন্ম বিবাহ মরণ প্রভৃতি সমাচার, কেহ নানা দেশের সমাচার জানিতে বাসনা করেন, অতএব নানা লোকের নানা

* We extract the following from the first number of *Dig Darsan* in illustration of its Bengali and English styles ;

“পৃথিবীর মধ্যে ছাপাকৰ্ম্ম মনুষ্য সৃষ্টে অত্ৰ সকল ক্ৰিয়া হইতে প্রশস্ত ও উপযোগি এবং অত্ৰ অত্ৰ উপায় হইতে তাহার দ্বারা বিদ্যার বেগ অতিশয় বৰ্দ্ধিকু হইয়াছে। এই ছাপাকৰ্ম্ম মনুষ্যদের মধ্যে নূতন রাজ্যের মত জ্ঞান হয়।”

“The art of Printing is one of the most useful and important which mankind have yet invented. It has contributed more than

অভিপ্রায়, এক ব্যক্তির অভিমত সমাচার দিলে অস্ত্রের অনভিমত হয়, এই প্রযুক্ত সকলের অভিমত সকল প্রকার কিঞ্চিৎ কিঞ্চিৎ সমাচার লিখিয়াছি।”

It claimed to be the first Bengali newspaper ever published in India.* Lord Hastings on receipt of a copy highly approved of it and authorised its circulation by post at one fourth of the postage charged to English papers. It contained news both Indian and English, likely to be interesting to natives, as well as local descriptions. From 1839 its contents began to appear both in English and Bengali in parallel columns. In its day it did some service to Government by acting as check on the conduct of its officers by contradicting unfavourable rumours and strengthening loyalty in the minds of the people. In 1841 it passed into the hands of a native editor at Calcutta where it was soon discontinued.

In 1818 the Seramore Missionaries also issued an English periodical, “The Friend of India,” now better known as “The Statesman” which for the next fifty-seven

anything else to the extension of knowledge, and may be said indeed to have established a new empire in the world.

* Answering to a correspondent of the Chandrica, the editor of the Durpan wrote:

“যে হেতুক ভারতবর্ষের মধ্যে বঙ্গ ভাষায় যে সকল সম্বাদপত্র প্রকাশ হয় তন্মধ্যে দর্পণ আদি পত্র ইহা আমরা স্পষ্ট জ্ঞাত হইয়া তৎসুত্রম অনিবার্য্য প্রমাণ প্রাপ্ত না হইলে অমনি কদাচ উপেক্ষা করা যাইবে না।”

“Being fully convinced that the Durpan was the first native newspaper ever published in India, we are not prepared to resign our laurels without irrefragable evidence.”

years exercised an immense influence in the country. For some years a monthly, it was made a quarterly in 1820 and afterwards, in 1835, was converted into a weekly paper. The editorship was in the hands of Dr Marshman and his worthy son John Marshman C. S. I. down to 1852. The good will was purchased by Mr Robert Knight in 1874.

The Type-foundry and the Serampore paper : Sir Charles Wilkins first introduced the art of typography in India. He cut the types with which Halhed's Bengali Grammar was printed at Hooghly in 1778. This was the first book ever printed in India. He taught the art to a native blacksmith, named Panchanon. It was with the latter's assistance that the Serampore missionaries erected a letter-foundry. Panchanon and his disciple Monohor cut types in more than 15 oriental languages including the intricate Chinese characters which have puzzled some of the best type-founders in England. The types cast in Serampore were used in more than twenty presses in Calcutta and down to 1860 Serampore was the principal type-foundry of the East.

On the 27th of March, 1820, the missionaries set up a steam engine for the manufacture of paper. This was the first steam engine ever erected in India. From that time down to 1865 Serampore was "the one source of supply for local as distinguished from imported and purely native hand-made paper."

The work of the Serampore missionaries has been succinctly summed up by John Marshman in the following words :

"At the period when it (the Serampore Mission)

was established, the public authorities, both in India and England, were opposed on political grounds to introduce religious or secular knowledge into the country. It was the zeal, fortitude and perseverance of Dr Carey and his two colleagues which were mainly instrumental in introducing higher and more improved principles of policy. They established the first native schools for heathen children in the North of India and organized the first college for the education of native catechists and itinerants. They printed the first books in the languages of Bengal and laid the foundation of a vernacular library. They were the first to cultivate and improve that language and render it the vehicle of national instruction. They published the first native newspaper in India and the first religious periodical work. In all the departments of missionary labour and intellectual improvement they led the way and it is on the broad foundation which they laid that the edifice of modern Indian Missions has been erected."

Churches, Chapels, Temples, Institutions and other Objects of interest.

Aldeen House : The Arabic word "Al-deen" signifies 'the faith or religion'. The house was purchased by the Reverend David Brown, Provost of Fort William, in 1803, and it was his favourite residence till his death in 1812. In 1805 the Reverend Henry Martyn joined Brown at Serampore and lived with him till 1806. The land is not included in Serampore Khas-Mahal. The site of the house, no longer in existence, is covered by the quarters of the Resident Engineer of the Howrah Water Works.

The Martyn Pagoda : The old temple of Radha-ballava came to be known in later times to the Christian Community of India as "Martyn Pagoda," owing to the circumstance that the great Christian missionary, Henry Martyn, lived there in 1806. "The habitation assigned to me by Mr Brown," writes Martyn, "is a pagoda in his grounds on the edge of the river, Thither I retired at night and really felt something like superstitious dread. I prayed aloud to my God and the echoes returned from the vaulted roof. I like my dwelling much ; it is so retired and free from noise ; it has so many recesses and cells, that I can hardly find my way in and out". Within a short distance of it stood the Aldeen House and the beautiful plantation about it, but the whole site is now covered by the Compound of the Howrah Water Works.

The temple was donated by the munificent Mullic family of Calcutta in 1677 A. D. On the encroachment of the river, the God was removed to another temple a little to the interior. "In the evening" to quote Martyn again, "I walked with Mr Brown to see the evening worship at a pagoda, where, they say, the God who inhabited my pagoda, retired some years ago. As we walked through the dark wood, the cymbals and drums struck up."

The old temple of Radha-bullava, emptied of its presiding God, and later inhabited by Henry Martyn, lost its importance in the Hindu eye and gradually fell into neglect and ruin. It became a common platform where the missionaries, forgetting their denominational difference, congregated on the open verandah overhanging the river in the cool of the morning and evening and took counsels together to realize their dream of the evangelization of India. It was used too, on occasions, for the celebration of the wedding of Christian couples. By a still stronger vicissitude it was turned into a rum factory and between 1820—40 A. D. thousands of bottles of rum, bearing the Pagoda brand, were sold all over the country. The great cyclone of 1864 blew down a part of its side to the river with the open platform. A picture of the ruined temple has been nicely presented by George Smith. He thus writes : "Let us look a little more closely at Henry Martyn's Pagoda. It is now a picturesque ruin which the peepul tree that is entwined among its fine brick masonry, and the crumbling river-bank may soon cause to disappear for ever. The exquisite tracery of the moulded bricks may be seen,

but not the few figures that are left of the popular Hindu idols just where the two still perfect arches begin to spring."

The whole of the adjoining land was purchased for the Howrah Water Works, but "as the Municipality informed me," wrote the land Acquisition Deputy Collector to Mr Buzlul Karim, "that they or Government would preserve the temple on account of its archaeological interest, I did not think it proper to award any thing for the bricks."

The Government of lord Curzon carried out some repairs to the temple to save it from ruin and a stone tablet, inscribed with the following words, was placed on the inside wall :

THIS BUILDING WAS OCCUPIED

BY

THE MISSIONARY HENRY MARTYN 1806

The Mahesh and Ballavapore Temples : Of the two temples, the one, dedicated to Radha-ballabha, is located at Ballovapore ; while the other, dedicated to Jagannatha is at Mahesh-about a mile to the South-West. The holy shrines have acquired a wide celebrity all over Bengal and have, for centuries together, attracted large number of pilgrims and devotees not only from all parts of Bengal, but also from other provinces of India as well. As a centre of Vishnoo worship Serampore, according to George Smith, is "second only to that of Pooree in all India."

The present temple of Radha-ballabha was built in 1764 A. D, and that of Jagannatha in 1755 A. D. They

reflect the munificence of Nayan Chand Mullic a scion of the illustrious Mullic family of Calcutta.

As are the temples, so are the Gods inhabiting them, of the same or about the same age. For, while traditions differ as to the mysterious origin of Radha-ballabha, they agree on the point, that the image was carved out of the same piece of stone as the image of Syam-sundar of Khardaha of whom Birbhadra Goswami, son of Nityananda the great Baishnaba apostle and co-preacher of Sree Chaitanya, was the accredited founder. On the other hand Kamalakar the second man in the line of the priest-hood of Jagannatha was an inner cycle disciple of Sree Chaitanya. Radha-ballabha was installed by Rudra-Ram a local saint and celibate. The ruling shebais are the descendants of Ramakanta, brother of Rudra-Ram. Of Dhrubanand Brahmachari, the founder of Jagannatha, little is known save that he was a pious wandering recluse and that he nominated Kamala-kar as his successor to the priest-hood. The ruling shebais of Jagannatha are the descendants of Kamalakar.

"The temple of Radha-ballabha of Bullavpore about 12 miles north of Calcutta," writes Mr Ward in his *History of the Hindus*, "has been endowed with lands, houses etc to the annual amount of Rs 3,000 by Raja Naba-Krishna." The endowment by the Raja is connected with an interesting episode in the Raja's life. On the occasion of the Sradh ceremony of his mother the Raja, who was an orthodox Hindu, had the God of Radha-ballabh conveyed to his own house. But so bewitched was he with the immanent beauty of Radha-ballabha that he was loath to part with the God and

offered several inducements to the shebaita to remain in possession. The shebaita insisted on the return of their God and resolved to go on fast unto death, if the Raja did not yield. The Raja apparently yielded but made a condition that the shebaita should succeed in directly picking up their God from the side of an imitation image made in the closest resemblance. The shebaita made no mistake and amidst tumultuous acclamations of the multitude carried their God home upon their shoulders. The Raja, discomfited, made amends for his conduct by liberal endowments. A considerable portion of the estate of Radha-ballabha has passed out of hands owing to misadministration.

Mauja Jagannathpore, Purgunah Boro, Surkar Satgaon, Chukla Hooghly * was granted as a Taluk to Thakur Jagannathji, Kishen Adhikari and other shebaita. The Jama of the Taluk, as recorded in the Serestha, was Rs 66-11-6 pies. The Mauja was, however, made rent-free for the purposes of Thakur Seva from the beginning of 1185 B, S (1778 A. D.) by the Talukdars and Chaudhuries of the District having voluntarily thrown the Jama of the said Mauja on their own Taluks. Besides, as Mr Ward writes, the temple was endowed with lands etc to the annual amount of Rs 1,400 by Raja Ananda Chandra Roy, a scion of the ancient Jeminder family of Sheoraphully.

The Mission Cemetery : The ground was purchased in 1802. In it lies the dust of Carey, Marshman and Ward. Close by them are also the remains of their favourite Mack. "No burial ground in India is more sacred" to the Christians. It also contains the grave of

Captain P. Mearing of the Honorable East India Company's Service, who left a legacy of Rs. 2,000 to the Serampore Hospital.

The Mission Chapel : It was purchased by the Serampore Missionaries in 1800. Sir Henry Havelock was baptized here.

The Danish Cemetery : It contains the graves, among others, of Hohlenbrig and of Jacob Kraesting, "Knight of the Royal Order of Dannebrog, Colonel of His Danish Majesty's Force, Chief and Director of the Danish possessions in Bengal".

The Roman Catholic Church : A Roman Catholic Chapel was built in 1764. It was found too small to accommodate the increasing community and supplanted by the present handsome edifice which was set up in 1776. The cost of erection was met in part by contributions raised in Serampore itself, but chiefly by the generous aid of the rich Baretto family of Calcutta. Adjoining the Church is a convent.

The Danish Church : It is dedicated to Saint Olaf. It was built through the exertions of Colonel Bie, the Danish Governor of Serampore. The building, completed in 1805, is said to have cost Rs. 18,500. The entire cost was met by subscriptions raised in Serampore, Calcutta and Denmark. The Marquis of Wellesley, one of the contributors, gave Rs. 1,000. He is reported to have said that nothing was wanting to the Government house at Barrackpore, save the distant view of a steeple. The lofty steeple of the church is surmounted by a globe and a cross. The gate-way bears the monogram of his Danish Majesty King Frederick VI. Inside the church

are memorial tablets in honour of the three Serampore Missionaries, Carey, Marshman and Ward and of J. S. Hohlenbrig, Governor of the Danish Majesty's settlement of Fredericksnagore (Serampore) and of J. O. Voight Surgeon in the service of His Danish Majesty in medical charge of the town from 1827 to 1842.

No service appears ever to have been performed in the church by a Danish clergy. On the capture of the town by the English in 1808, permission was obtained from the Government for the Serampore missionaries to conduct Divine Service in it on condition that they "would confine themselves to the performance of Divine Service in the usual manner and carefully abstain from all discourses of a nature to offend the religious prejudices of the natives." In 1831 the church came under the jurisdiction of Dr. Daniel Wilson, the Bishop of Calcutta, and the liturgy of the Church of England was introduced in it.

The Serampore Botanical Garden : The place once boasted of a fine Botanical Garden established by Dr. Carey in 1800. It stood on six acres of ground and contained three thousand specimens of plants. Dr. J. O. Vioght in medical charge of the settlement from 1827 to 1842 in his book '*Hortus Suburbanus Calcullensis*' gives an account of the plants which were cultivated in the East India Company's Botanical Garden at Calcutta and in the Serampore Botanical Garden. The work, according to Griffith, is one which will perpetuate the name of the author as an Indian Botanist. The garden is no more in existence and the site is covered by the India Jute Mills.

The Serampore College : It was founded in 1818 by three Serampore Missionaries—the Reverend Dr Carey, Dr. Marshman, and William Ward. The ground on which the college stands was purchased by subscriptions, while the cost of the building amounting to £ 15,000, was met from the private funds of the Serampore missionaries. Major Wickedie, the Danish Governor's colleague, "planned the noble Ionic building which was then, and is still, the finest edifice of the kind in British India". The portico fronting the river is composed of six columns more than four feet in diameter at the base. The spacious grounds are surrounded with iron railing and the front entrance is adorned with a noble gate cast at Birmingham.

The aims and objects of the College, as stated in the prospectus, pleased the Marquis of Hastings, the British Governor-General of India. The Danish authorities in Serampore as well as the King of Denmark took active interest in the Serampore College. His Excellency the Danish Governor of Serampore accepted a place in the Council of which the other four members were the three Serampore missionaries and J. C. Marshman Esq.

The King of Denmark wrote letters, signed with his own hand, to the three Serampore missionaries and sent each of them a gold medal as token of his approbation. He also made over to the College a large house and ground the rent of which was to be perpetually applied to the support of the College and empowered the College Council to have a free hand in the internal management of its affairs independent of all control of the local authorities. Finally in 1827 the King was pleased to

grant a Royal Charter to the Serampore College empowering it to confer degrees, like the Universities of Kiel and Copenhagen, with the reservation that the Degree conferred by the Serampore College shall not carry the rank in the State implied in the Danish degrees without the express sanction of the Crown. It was thus made the earliest degree-conferring college in Asia. When, in 1845, the Danish Settlements in India were transferred to the English East India Company, Article 6 of the Treaty of Transfer expressly provided that "the rights and immunities granted to the Serampore College by the Royal Charter of date 23rd of February, 1827, shall not be interfered with, but continue in force in the same manner as if they had been obtained by a Charter from the British Government"; while Article 3 provided that the Serampore College, having been built or established by private means was not included in the public buildings and Crown property transferred.

In 1830 the failure of the banks in which the funds of the Serampore Mission and the Serampore College had been deposited led the College Council to abandon at least for the time being, all efforts to organise the College on a University basis. In those dark days the liberality of Mr. J. C. Marshman enabled the College to function on a restricted scale. In 1856 Mr. Marshman left India, and the College was placed under the general direction of the Baptist Missionary Society which helped the College with money needed for its support.

In 1857 the University of Calcutta was founded and the Serampore College was one of the first eight Colleges to be affiliated to that University. The affiliation conti-

nued till 1882 when owing to a change in its educational policy, the College Council decided to close the Arts Department. The time was, however, approaching when the wishes of the founders of the College were to be partially fulfilled.

The decision of the Universities Commission that it would be inexpedient to found a Faculty of Theology in any of the existing Universities, led the Decennial Missionary Conference of December 1902, representing all Protestant Missions in India, Burma and Ceylon to ask the Serampore College Council "whether it would not be possible to make the Serampore Charter available for the granting of degrees in Divinity". It was stated in certain influential quarters that the Serampore Charter "was as dead as Queen Anne and any thought of its resurrection was an idle dream." The Serampore College Council, therefore, decided to take legal opinion before replying to the request of the Decennial Conference. Dr. (later Sir) Asutosh Mukherjee on being consulted expressed his firm conviction in the validity of the Charter and added "that the British Government would never be able to get out of their obligation to give it complete recognition." Sir Thomas Raleigh, recognized all over the world as an authority on International Law, also gave his opinion in favour of the validity of the Serampore Charter and wrote an extended note on the legal aspects of it. Armed with such instruments the College Council welcomed the request of the Decennial Conference and the question of the reorganization of the College on the lines planned by the original founders inevitably came up. In 1909, the council had at its

disposal a decent sum of £ 25,000 contributed in part by the trustees of the Arthington Fund of the Baptist Missionary Society and in part by the public and while this amount was in the following year augmented by the generous contributions of Mr G. B. Leechman, a retired merchant from Ceylon and the son of a former professor of the College, the hopes of princely donation from the trustees of the Rockefeller funds became doomed to disappointment. With the amount already raised, however, the College buildings were rejuvenated, a new hostel and additional staff quarters erected and a qualified staff appointed to impart higher theological training for divinity degrees on lines followed by the best theological colleges of Europe and America. In 1910 a higher theological department preparing for the Serampore B. D. was opened and in 1911 the College was again affiliated to the University of Calcutta in Arts. On the 14th of Dec. 1915, at an assembly presided over by His Excellency Lord Carmichael, Dr. Howells, the Principal of the College had the high pleasure of conferring the degree of Bachelor of Divinity on three successful students. It was a memorable day in the annals of the Serampore College when, for the first time, the powers conferred by the Royal Charter of 1827, were brought into use.

In 1918 the Centenary of the College was celebrated and Lord Ronaldsay who presided at the Centenary Convocation, announced a gift of one lakh of Rupees from the Government. In the same year the Bengal Act IV of 1918 was enacted. It subsequently received the assent of the Governor-General of India. Under

the Act, commonly known as the Serampore College Act, provision was made for an enlarged Council of not less than sixteen members. and for a Senate of not less than twelve nor more than eighteen members on an interdenominational basis. The rights and immunities under the Serampore Charter were left untouched by the Act subject to the condition that should the Serampore College proceed to confer degrees in any other branch of knowledge than theology, it must satisfy the Government that it is thoroughly equipped for the purpose.

The Serampore College Bill was introduced in the Bengal Legislative Council by Sir S. P. Sinha (later Lord) member in-charge and he was nobly assisted by Dr. Howells, who was for the time being, made an honourable member of the Bengal Legislature.

The Library : The Serampore College has a library of its own. Founded by Dr. Carey it has since become one of the biggest and best of its kind in India. It contains over 16,000 volumes of books besides some old rare manuscripts and journals of great importance to the scholar and the research student. In a part of the Library is a museum containing such interesting objects as Dr. Carey's pen, chair, pulpit, the first edition of the new Testament, the Polygot Dictionary, Dr. Marshman's Chinese Bible and Vocabulary, the first issues of *Dig Darsan*, *Samachar Darpon*, the *Friend of India*, a plate for the first steam engine ever set up in India, the English translation of the Royal Charter of 1827. The original Charter engrossed on vellum and richly bound at the expense of the Crown was long on view at the Serampore College and is now carefully preserved in London (B. M. House).

The Serampore Portrait : To the College belong some fine historic portraits. Among these there is one which has been traditionally believed to be a portrait by Zoffany of Madam Grand—the lady, whose voluptuous charms at sixteen led to her seduction by Sir Philip Francis, the author of the celebrated Letters of Junius, and who, subsequently, was to figure in European history as the Princess Talleyrand. In the portrait, “the countenance shows more of feminine softness than strength of character.” It is probable that the College once contained a portrait of the future Princess Talleyrand. Kaye in his article to the Calcutta Review for Dec. 1844 speaks of “her portrait by Zoffani, now adorning the walls of Mr Marshman’s residence at Serampore” and Marshman himself corroborated the statement in his review of the article in the Friend of India. Miss Eden, sister of Lord Auckland, in one of her “Letters from India”, says “I have such an interesting portrait to copy just now, a picture by Zoffany of Madam Talleyrand, when she was in this country as Mrs Grand... Captain C—borrowed it of the owner to have a copy made of it”.

Dr Busteed in his pamphlet *The Serampore Portrait* “has conclusively proved it to be a portrait of the Princess Louisa Augusta of Augustenburg, sister of King Frederick VI of Denmark.”

Warren Hastings’ House : The great Governor-General had a favourite country house at Rishra, situated on the right bank of the river, about a mile below Serampore. To this favourite place he often retired for relaxation from the arduous duties of his

high office and spent his leisures in the company of his wife. With its green velvet lawn and venerable trees which from distance were mistaken for the oaks of an English park, the mansion presented the apperance of an English country seat. Some of the trees in the park were, it is said, planted by lady Hastings herself. On her return to England in 1784, Lord Hastings decided to sell the property and in the Calcutta Gazette of 5.8. 1784 the following advertisement appeared : "On Thursday, the 2nd September next, will be sold by public outcry by Mr Bondfield, at his Auction Room, if not sold before by private sale, the extensive piece of ground belonging to Warren Hastings Esq, called "RISHRA".....consisting of 136 bighas, 18 of which are Lakheraje land." Writing to his wife Hastings said that he had sold "Rishra" for double the sum that had been paid for it. The site is covered by the Wellington and the Hastings Jute Mills.

The Serampore Hospital: The necessity for the establishment of a hospital having long been felt, a meeting of the inhabitants, both Indian and European, was convened at the Government House on the 28th of January 1836. It was presided over by His Excellency the Hon'ble Colonel Rechling—the Governor of Serampore. Dr. Marshman in addressing the meeting stated that on an average full five hundred were carried off by disease from year to year, that of this number a full tenth, possibly a greater proportion, might be saved from death if a hospital were provided, and that the saving of 50 human lives from year to year would repay all the labours and expenses required to establish a hospital. It

was resolved "that a society be immediately formed with the view of supporting and superintending an hospital for the reception of patients of every age and nation, afflicted with disease of any kind, the leprosy excepted, under the auspices of Her Sacred Majesty Maria Queen of Denmark, of which society all who subscribe even so small a sum as a rupee monthly, shall be considered members." Subscriptions amounting to Rs. 1,400 were collected on the spot, while another sum of Rs 1,800 was promised.

The Institution was declared established and a Committee formed consisting of five Protestant gentlemen, the Roman Catholic Vicar and three wealthy Indians. The Governor accepted the office of the President, Mr. Elberling, Secretary to the Governor agreed to act as Secretary, Dr. Marshman was appointed Treasurer and Dr. Voight the Medical officer of the settlement, offered his gratuitous services. The institution, which was not formally opened till 1st of June 1836, was temporarily located in the Government House. Her Sacred Majesty, Maria Queen of Denmark became the patroness of the institution which she supported with a liberal donation of sicca Rs 523-5 4 a year. The royal subscription was not withheld even when the settlement was transferred to the British Government in 1845, but was continued up to June 1881.

The infant institution evoked enthusiasm of the public. Besides the grants from the Danish Government, collections made in churches, fancy sales got up in aid, donations from the Serampore Ladies' Benevolent Institution, a legacy of Rs. 2,000 bequeathed by Captain

P. Mearing of the Hon'ble East India Company's service, donations from Dr. and Mrs Marshman, who had opened a school for European boys and a girls' school respectively, testify to the generous support which the institution received from the community at large. Dr. J. O. Voight medical officer of the settlement continued his voluntary services till 1842. In 1844 the Institution came to have a building of its own.

On the transfer of the Settlement to the British Government in 1845, it was provided in Article 3 of the treaty for Transfer that the Serampore Native Hospital having been built or established by private means, is not included in the public buildings and Crown property transferred.

After the transfer of the settlement to the British Government, the Serampore Charitable Hospital came under the charge of a Civil Surgeon, who has generally been an officer belonging to the uncovenanted Civil Medical Service. The authority for the original institution of this appointment is not known. The town seems to have received this special treatment from Government in view of its large respectable European and Indian population and also of the fact that the Danish Government had previously maintained a civil medical officer for the town. The first civil surgeon whose name can be traced was Dr. T. Bray who held charge from 1857 to June 1865. In 1868 the Municipality came forward with a monthly aid of Rs 50. In January 1870, the Bengal Government passed an important order directing that the Civil Medical Officer of Serampore should exercise control not only over the City Hospital but over the

Charity hospitals throughout the sub-division and that the appointment was to be considered an independent charge, except when a Sub-assistant Surgeon held charge when it might be considered as sub-ordinate to the Civil Surgeon of Hooghly.* It also authorised "the transfer of the Hospital to the Municipality in trust for the town of Serampore", of which the Commissioners for the time being were to act as a Committee for the management of the Hospital.

* Bengal Government (Judicial Department, Medical) No. 284
dj/20. 1. 1870.

Serampore in the Eye of Travellers and Others

February 21, 1803—

"Serampore, the Danish Settlement on the opposite bank, has a pleasing effect. . . . It extends for about two miles along the bank, and is perfectly surrounded by our territories. It has no fortifications, and only a small battery, for saluting. On the dispute with the Northern Powers, we sent a party of Sepoys to take possession, which was of course done without the least resistance. . . . Its breadth is very trifling ; yet, small as is the territory, it is a settlement of considerable value to the mother country. When the E. I. Company took to themselves the opium and salt-petre trade, to prevent any competition in the market, they agreed to allow a certain quantity annually to the French, Danes and Dutch, at a specific price, on condition that they should not purchase any from the natives. The Danes this year resold their opium for a profit of upwards of £20,000, without ever removing it from Calcutta, which alone would more than defray their expenses. They have also from this place the facility, for their own consumption, every produce of India, duty free. Ships cannot indeed come up close to the town, from the increase of a shoal about three miles lower down ; but labour is so cheap, that the additional expenses of conveying the goods by boat is of very little consequence. The French settlement of Chandernagore, and the Dutch one of Chinsura, are

more extensive than the Danish ; but from the larger establishments kept up, were never equally advantageous, and have ever cost more than they produced. The treaties by which they could claim a share of the opium and salt-petre were not renewed on the late peace ; consequently the advantage is done away"—*Voyages And Travels by George Viscount Valentia.*

—"Serampore is a snug little town that possesses an exceeding elegance and neatness of appearance. The range of houses along the river makes up a gay and brilliant picture. The interior keeps the promise which a distant view has given. The streets are brightly clean as the walks in a garden. There is not much bustle or activity ; the place greatly wears the character of a suburban retreat. But time was when there was a busy trade and 22 ships cleared from the small port in the space of six months."—"Travels of a Hindu by Bhol Nath Chunder.

"In front on the opposite side of the river is the Danish Settlement of Serampore and its houses, which are large and handsome, are two or three stories high. We are floating gently down the tide ; I can scarcely write, the scenery attracts me so much,—the Bengalee Mandaps (places of worship) close to the water, the fine trees of every description, and the pretty stone ghats. We have just past a ruined ghat, situated in the midst of old fine trees ; at the top of the flight of steps are the ruins of two Hindu temples of picturesque form, an old peepul tree overshades them ; its twisted roots are exposed, the earth having been washed away during the rains. A number of women are bathing, others carrying

water away in gharas poised on their heads ; the men take it away in water vessels which are hung to either end of split bamboo called a bahangi, which is carried balanced on the shoulder. We fly past the objects with the ebbing tide ; what an infinity of beauty there is in all the native boats ; could my pencil do justice to the scenery, how valuable would be my sketch book !"—Wanderings of a Pilgrim in Search of the Picturesque.

"Time was when Serampore was most popular with Calcutta residents as a holiday resort, and generations of the ladies and gentlemen of Fort William patronised Parr's "Denmark Tavern" afterwards taken over by John Nicholl "late of the Harmanic" and formerly steward to Sir Elijah Impey"—Calcutta Old and New

(H. E. A. Cotton)

"It is more than fifty years ago since the English purchased the Settlement from its Danish owners, and almost everything of historic interest has vanished out of sight or been hidden under the white-wash of an indiscriminating Municipality. The Hotel de Ville has become the Collector's Office..... The very thoroughfares, have been renamed. Nothing serves to remind the visitor of once powerful Frederiksnagore, except the monogram of their Most Christian Majesties, which still lingers, shamefacedly enough, over the Jail and the Church and Court house."

—Englishman Feb. 1, 1901.

The palmy days of Serampore under the Danes are over. The political importance of the town is at an end. Its commercial prosperity is a thing of the past. The bare ruins of the flag-house from which the Danish

flag used to fly for ninety years are visible on the river side. The extensive warehouse of the Danish settlement with its high enclosing walls has been pulled down and has become the site of Sub-Divisional Officer's residence. The Government House, which once rang with the sound of salute guns and echoed with the cheers of royal guests, has been converted into a Criminal Court. Gone are those days when Serampore was most popular with Calcutta residents as a holiday resort and generations "of the ladies and gentlemen of Fort William" used to resort to Par's famous "Denmark Tavern." The once exceedingly neat elegant and bright town of Serampore, as described in the pages of books of travel, presents a different picture today. The very thoroughfares have been renamed. Almost every thing of historic interest has vanished out of sight or been hidden under the white-wash of an indiscriminating Municipality. Nothing serves to remind the visitor of the once powerful Fredericksnagore except the monogram of King Frederick VI, which lingers over the Jail, the Church and the fine gate-way of the Court-house and some memorial tablets raised over the graves of Danish Governors, who lie peacefully in the Danish Cemetery,—L. M. M. in "The Serampore College Magazine". December, 1927.

Appendix A

Deed restoring the Danish possessions (1815) :

Whereas by the provisions of the definitive Treaty of Peace made and concluded between His Britannic Majesty and the King of Denmark, signed at Kiel on the 14th January 1814, and by the additional articles signed at Liege, the seventh of April 1814, it is stipulated and agreed that His Britannic Majesty shall restore to the Crown of Denmark the town of Serampore and the possessions attached to that Settlement, in the state in which they were at the moment of the signature of the said definitive Treaty of Peace and the said additional articles, and any works which may have been constructed since the occupation of the said Settlement.

Be it known that I, Gordon Forbes, appointed by His Excellency the Earl of Moira, Governor-General etc. etc. to be commissary on the part of the British Government for carrying into effect the restitution of the Colony of Serampore for, and in the name of, the British Government do restore to His Excellency Jacob Krefting Esq., delegated on the part of the Danish Government to receive charge of those possessions and do hereby declare to have accordingly restored and delivered up the said town of Serampore and the possessions attached to that Settlement, and I, Jacob Krefting, acknowledge to have received them from the said Gordon Forbes, on behalf of the British Government, the said town of Serampore and

the possessions attached thereunto, and restored to the Crown of Denmark by virtue of the said definitive Treaty of Peace and the said additional articles.

In witness whereof I, the said Gordon Forbes, for and on behalf of the British Government, and I, the said Jacob Krefting, for and on behalf of the Danish Government have hereunto set our hands and seals, given at Serampore this fifteenth day of December one thousand eight hundred and fifteen.

(Seal) (Sd) Gordon Forbes.

Jacob Krefting.

Appendix B.

Treaty for Transfer of the Danish Settlements on the Continent of India between His Majesty the King of Denmark and the Honourable East India Company, settled by Peter Hanson Esq., Councillor of State, Governor of His Danish Majesty's Possessions in India, Knight of the Order of Dannebrog, in virtue of powers delegated to him on the 30th September 1841, by His Majesty, the King of Denmark and the Governor-General of India in Council, Lt.-General the Right Honorable Henry Hardinge, G. C. B., Governor-General of India, the Honorable Frederick Millett, Member of the Council, and the Honorable Major General Sir George Pollock, G. C. B., Member of the Council, in virtue of powers delegated to them by the Honorable the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors on the 1st July 1842.

Done in Calcutta on the 22nd of February, 1845.

In the Name of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity.

Article 1 :

His majesty the King of Denmark engages to transfer the Danish Settlements on the Continent of India, with all the public buildings and Crown property thereunto belonging, to the Honourable the British East India Company, in consideration of the sum of 1,250,000 (Twelve lakhs and Fifty thousand) Company's Rupees, which sum the Honourable the British East India Company engage to pay on the ratification of the present treaty, either in Company's Rupees at Calcutta, or by the Bills on London at one month's sight in Sterling money, at the rate of exchange of two shillings for each Rupee, or in such proportion of cash or bills, at the above rate, as may be most convenient to the Danish Government.

Article 2 :

The settlements and Crown property referred to above, are :

1. The Town of Tranquebar on the Coromandel Coast, with the districts thereunto belonging, for which an annual sum of 2, 500 Gold Pardaux or about 4, 000 Company's Rupees, is to be paid to the Rajah of Tanjore and the following buildings and Crown property viz :

(a) Fort Dansbarg, with buildings therewith connected and thirteen Brass Guns mounted on the ramparts, and other stores.

(b) The Government house situated opposite to the Fort.

(c) A country residence for the Governor at the village of Porreiar.

(d) A garden with a bungalow at the village of Tittaly, possessed by the Governor.

(e) A building in the Town occupied, with the garden adjacent used as hospital.

(f) A house in the Town occupied by the Medical Officer of the settlement.

(g) A house and office on the beach for the Master Attendant.

(h) Two brick-built godowns.

Beside public roads, bridges, sluices, a number of fruit and other trees, and all other immoveable Crown property of any description whatever, together with such moveable articles as belong to the public offices, or are destined for public use, the furniture and moveables in the Government House not being herein included,

II. The town of Frederiksnagore or Serampore, in the province of Bengal, comprising 60 bighas, commonly called Frederiksnagore and the districts of Serampore, Akna and Pearapore, for which districts an annual sum of sicca Rs. 1,601 is to be paid to the Zamindars of Sewraphully, for the time being, with the following public property :

(a) The Government House.

(b) The Secretary's House and Offices.

(c) The Court House with Jail annexed.

(d) The Church, commonly called the Danish Church.

(e) The Bazar containing more or less 6 biggahs and 13 cattahs, with a range of godowns on the North side, and two godowns on the West side, the remaining part of the ground being occupied by private godowns, the owners paying an annual ground rent.

(f) Two small brick-built Guard-Houses on the banks of the river.

Besides public roads and bridges, a Canal from the fields of the village of Pearapore, through the adjacent villages, to the river.....and all other immoveable Crown property of any description whatever, together with such moveable articles as belong to public offices, or are destined for public use.

III. A piece of ground at Balasore, formerly a factory, containing 18 Biggahs 2 Cattahs and 12 Chattaks of tenanted ground.

Article 3 :

The Church of Zion and the Mission Churches at Zerusalem and Bethlehem in Tranquebar, the Roman Catholic Church and Chapels at the same place, the Roman Catholic Church in Serampore, the Serampore College and the Serampore Native Hospital having been built, or established by private means, these Churches and Institutions, with all their goods, effects, and property, moveable as well as immoveable, are belonging to the respective Congregations, Communities, and Societies, and are not therefore included with the present transfer.

Article 4 :

The inhabitants of the afore-said Settlements, Europeans as well as Natives, who continue to reside within the Settlements, will be placed under the protection of the general Law of British India, and their religions, personal, or acquired rights, as formerly enjoyed under the Danish Government, will be

rights of person or property are throughout British India.

All suits commenced and pending in the Danish Courts at the time the treaty comes into force shall be carried on and decided by the same Law as far as altered circumstances will allow.

The same will be observed in all cases of appeal subsequent to the treaty, but no complaint or suit which has been finally settled and decided under the Danish Administration, and not appealed in due time, in observance of the rules for appeal then in force, shall be deemed appealable ; nor shall it be lawful to bring out again, subsequently to the conclusion of the Treaty, for petition, complaint or otherwise, such cases as have been already finally determined by competent authority.

Article 5 :

Nothing in the present Treaty shall affect the Trade now carried on, or about to be carried on, by the subjects of his Danish Majesty in the parts of the East Indies; nor shall the trade be more restricted than it would have been in case, his Danish Majesty had continued to possess the Settlements now transferred.

Article 6 :

The Church Missionary Board at Copenhagen for the propagation of the Gospel shall be at liberty to continue their exertions in India for the conversion of the Heathens to the Christian Religion and shall be afforded the same protection by the Government of India as similar English Societies under the general law of the land ; the rights and immunities granted to the Serampore College by Royal Charter of date 23rd of February

327, shall not be interfered with, but continue in force in the same manner as if they have been obtained by a charter from the British Government, subject to the general Law of British India.

Article 7 :

The Danish Government engage to meet all pensionary claims and engagements connected with the aforesaid settlements and the East India Company, shall not be liable for any such claims or engagements whatever, with the exception of the yearly payments of the soil to the Raja of Tanjore and the Zaminder of Seworaphully as mentioned in Article 2.

Article 8 :

All sums not belonging to the Royal Treasury and under the administration of the Court of Wards or of any of the public functionaries of the Danish Government in their official capacity, shall be received by such public Officer or Officers as the Governor-General of India in Council may direct, and shall be carried to account and administered by such public officer or officers in the same manner and under the same rules and responsibility as similar property is administered under the general Law of the land.

Article 9 :

The present treaty of nine articles shall be ratified, and the ratifications exchanged in Calcutta within six months from the date hereof, or sooner, if possible.

Done at Calcutta on the 22nd day of February, in the year of our Lord 1845.

(Sd.) P. Hansen

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(Sd.) H. Hardinge

(Sd.) F. Millett

(Sd) Geo. Pollock.

Appendix C.

Certificate of Exchange of Ratifications of the
Treaty for Transfer of Danish Settlements to the E. I.
Company.

The undersigned having met together for the purpose of exchanging the Ratifications of a Treaty between His Majesty the King of Denmark and the Honorable East India Company for the transfer of the Danish Settlements on the continent of India, with all the Public Buildings and Crown property thereunto belonging, to the East India Company, in consideration of the sum of Rs. 12, 50, 000, twelve lakhs and fifty thousand Company's Rupees, concluded and signed in Calcutta on the 22nd day of February, in the year of our Lord 1845. and the respective Ratifications of the said Instrument having been carefully persued, the said exchange took place this day in the usual form.

In witness whereof they have signed the present Certificate of Exchange and have affixed thereto the seals of their Arms.

Done in Calcutta the Sixth day of October, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-five.

On the part of the East India Company.	{ Sd T. H. Maddock Seal „ F. Millet „ C. H. Cameron „	} On the part of His Majes- ty the King of Denmark (sd) L. Lindhard. (seal)
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